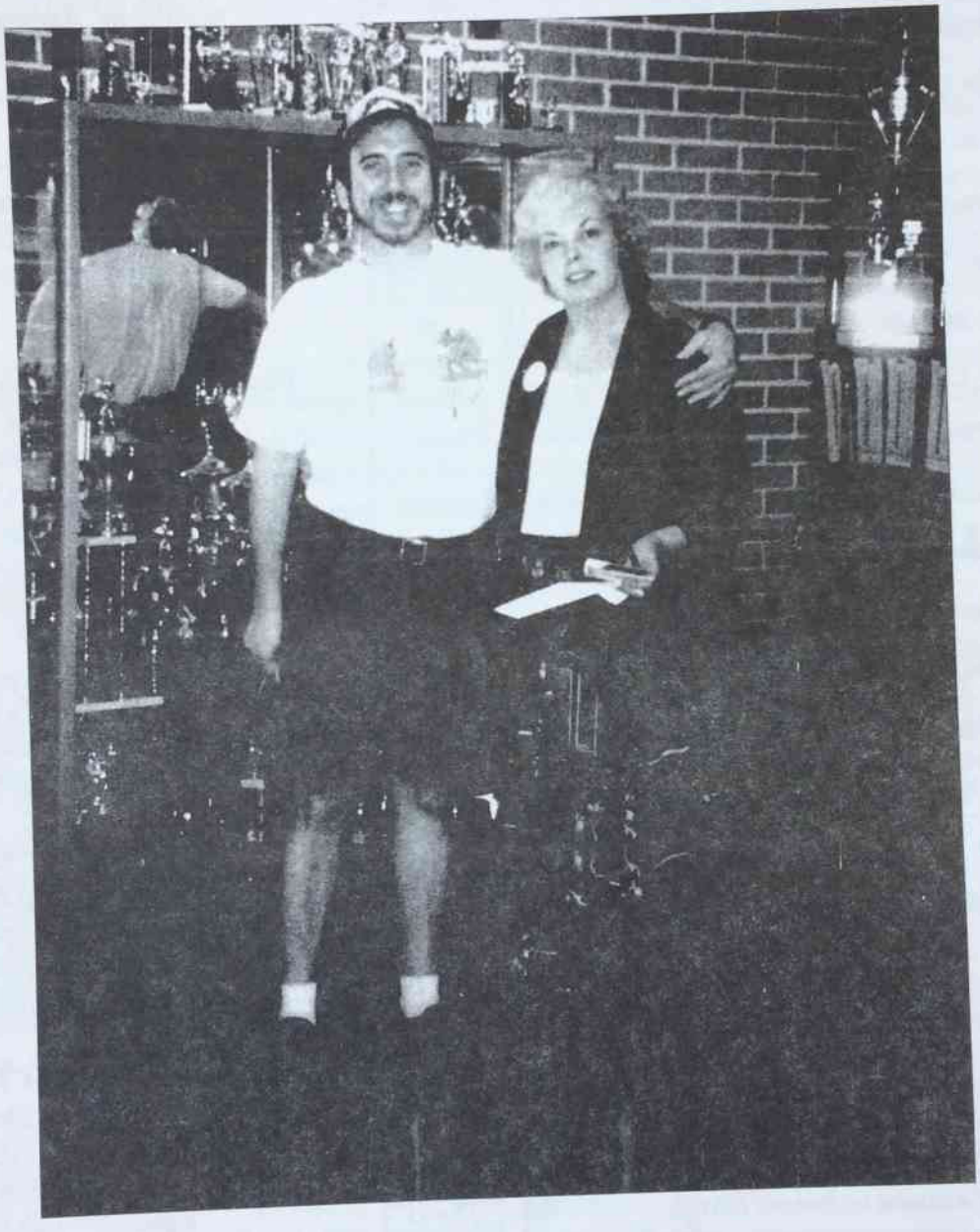
Alabama Chess Antics

February - April 1998 **$3.00**



A. J. Goldsby flashes a grin as organizer Camille Gaston hands him a big check for being first overall in the Labor Day weekend State Championship in Chickasaw. (Note the ghostly images in the display case!)

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President's Letter *by Bill Melvin*

Happy New Year! [Blaring horns, party hats, and singing in the background] Alabama chess had a great year in 1997 and 1998 only looks better.

The last *Antics* was 40 pages in length. While its record size took a little longer to get out the door than planned, I feel that it is one of the best issues to date. Contributions are at an all-time high. Keep them coming. We'll try to be more timely in the future.

The scholastic calendar for 1998 looks exciting. Birmingham has taken Alabama Scholastic chess on its back and is holding both the State Individual and State Team Championships for 1997-98. We are fortunate to have so many thriving programs in Birmingham and I hope that the enthusiasm behind these programs spreads into other areas of our state.

One of Vasha Rosenblum's goals for scholastic chess in Alabama is to finalize the calendar for 1998-99 by the time school lets out in May 1998. This worthy goal for our state will make planning and publicity simple for next year. Let's make a New Year's resolution for the entire state: "Support Vasha by helping to plan the 1998-99 scholastic calendar by May 1998." We will accept bids for all 1998-99 state level scholastic tournaments at the Queen of Hearts Business Meeting in February. If you can't have a bid ready by then, please at least try to shoot for April.

The adults in Alabama certainly deserve some credit as well. While attendance at many adult tournaments has been disappointing of late, it is primarily adults who run all of the successful scholastic tournaments. Also, it is mostly adults who do such a good job writing the *Antics*. I counted at least 14 contributors to the last *Antics* and I undoubtedly missed a couple! Keep up the good work and thanks!

I couldn't help but notice Alabama in the January 1998 *Chess Life*. Ken Sloan was featured as the USCF "Volunteer of the Month." Ken more than deserves this special honor. South Shades Crest Elementary school was listed as the 21st place USCF affiliate leader. This is an impressive achievement. Finally, Matt Puckett was leading the 1997 Novag Grand Prix "Under Age 16" category through November. Alabama continues to have leaders in diverse chess areas.

As always, feel free to contact me with any ideas for improving chess in Alabama. My e-mail address is and I am always excited about hearing new ideas.

ACF Executive Board Meeting

An ACF Executive Board Meeting will be held at 8:00 A.M. on Sunday, February 15 at the playing site of the Queen of Hearts chess tournament (see display ad on page 31). All are invited to attend and help coordinate future state activities. The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

1 Scholastic tournament planning for 1998 - 9.

2 Scholastic By-Laws changes.

3 Bidding for the 1998 State Championship, 1998 State Closed Championship, 1999 State Scholastic Individual Championship, and 1999 State Scholastic Team Championship.

4 Review of upcoming state tournaments.

5 Expenditure of 1997 - 8 USCF Affiliate Support Program (SASP).

In Quest of a State Open Championship (part II)

by A.J. Goldsby I, L.M.

(Part I appeared in the previous issue of Alabama Chess Antics.)

Here are the detailed annotations for my games against Leo Denton and Andy Reeder that I promised in part I of this article:

Round 3, Board 5
Goldsby vs. Leo Denton (2058)

1. P - K4 P - Q3

The dreaded Pirc. This opening used to give me a lot of trouble. I'm sure that's why Leo chose it. I choose the Austrian Attack as a response.

2. P - Q4 N - KB3 3. N - QB3 P - KN3 4. P - KB4 B - N2 5. N - KB3 P - QB4

5. ... c5 is a strange move. Theory has vacillated back and forth on the merits of this move. First bad, then good, then bad ... Currently theory says it's O.K. MCO even gives it an exclam. The main stem game for this variation is Sax - Seirawan, Brussels 1988 (12 move draw!)

6. B - N5+

White chooses the sharpest variation. 6.d5 and 6.e5 are also playable. The problem with the Pirc for Black is that it is complicated and he must know everything in the book. White has many options and can choose the "level" of sharpness with every move. I decide to test Leo's knowledge of the variation, seeing how well he did his homework.

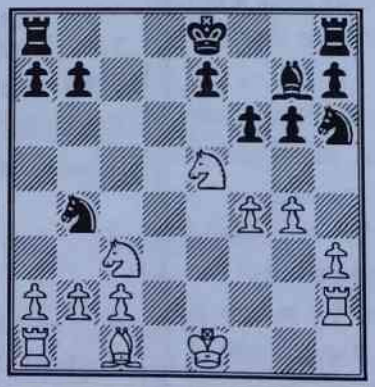
6. ... B - Q2 7. P - K5 N - N5 8. P - KR3 N - R3(?!) 9. P - KN4!?

Black's eighth move hands the initiative solidly over to White. It's easy to condemn this move but, using the current state of theory and my own knowledge of the variation, I can't honestly suggest and real improvements. Students of theory should look up Federov - Tseitlin. But with a warning - logically the longer a variation, the move susceptible it is to improvement(s) at various key junctures. My response is not "theoretically approved" either, but certainly is an example of common sense in chess. 9.g4!? grabs space and attempts to nail Black's KN to the edge of the board for the foreseeable future.

9. ... B x B 10. N x B Q - R4+ 11. N - B3 P x P (d4) 12. Q x P N - QB3 13. Q - K4 Q - N5 14. Q x Q N x Q 15. R - R2 P x P?!

This seems to release the power of the White pieces. Maybe just 15. ... O - O - O; or even 15. ... O - O is better.

16. N x P P - B3



Position after 16. ... P - B3

17. P - QR3! N x P+

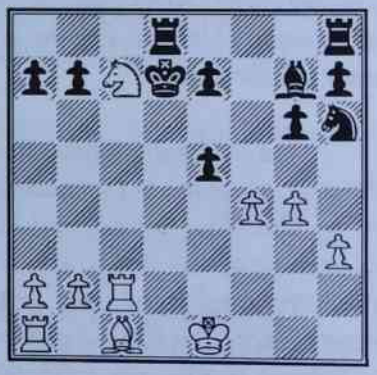
17. ... Na6 is ugly, but I see no forced win for White.

18. R x P P x N 19. N - Q5! R - Q1?!

White's 19th is the best. 19. ... Kd7 is maybe better (19. ... Kd7 20.fe! Nf7? 21.e6+! +/-, for example 21.Kd6 22.Nc7 Rac8 23.Bf4+ followed by 24.Rd1 mate)

20. N - B7+ K - Q2?

Now 20. ... Kd7 is definitely wrong. 20. ...Kf7 is definitely better than the game (but maybe still losing). But it sure looked convincing.



Position after 20. ... K - Q2

21. P - B5 !! N x P !

If 21. ... PxP 22.BxN BxB(?) 23.R—Q1+ B-Q7+ 24.R/1xB+ K-B8 25.N-R6 mate.

22. P x N R - QB1 23. B - R6!

More than one strong player thought White was lost after Black's 22nd move. My 23rd, probably deserving two exclams, sealed Black's fate.

23. ... R x N 24. R - Q1+! K - B1 25. R x R+ K x R 26. B x B R - KN1 27. B x P+ K - B3 28. P x P R x P 29. K - B2 R - N4 30. B - B3 P - K3 31. R - Q4 P - N3 32. R - KR4 P - KR4 33. R - KB4 P - R3 34. K - B3 K - Q4 35. R - Q4+ K - B3 36. R - K4 K - Q4 37. R - Q4+ K - B4 38. R - Q7 P - R5 39. R - Q3 P - N4 40. K - K4 K - B5(?) 41. B - N4! R - N6 42. P - N3 mate

I think this is one of those games where only the contestants had any real idea of what was really going on. There was no reason not to believe Leo when he said that he saw the mate. Otherwise there was no reason for him to play the way he did. This is one of my very best queenless games.

Round 6, Board 1
Andy Reeder (2042) vs Goldsby

1. P - Q4 P - KN3 (!)

When I played 1. ... g6 (which I've never played before in my life!), I was looking to avoid another pure Trompowski. I knew I might have to defend a Modern/Pirc, or a King's Indian/Benoni (depending on what Andy plays and what he could transpose into). But I was betting Andy would play a move like 2. Nf3 to keep it close to a Tromp./Torre attack, and I was right. An hour's worth of study (and not liking any of the book lines) was what gave me this idea the night before.

2. N - KB3 N - KB3 3. B - N5 B - N2

My point. Because of my move-order, now after 3. Bg5, I just play 3. ... Bg7. My development isn't disrupted. I don't have to worry about doubled pawns, pins, or a knight leap.

4. QN - Q2 P - Q3 5. P - K4 O - O 6. B - Q3 N - B3 7. P - B3 P - KR3 8. B - R4 (?!) N - KR4 (!?)

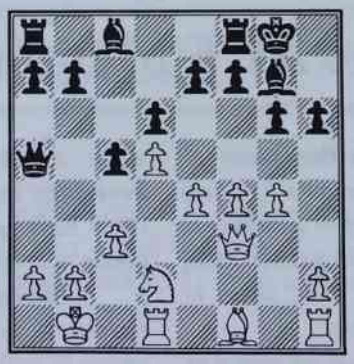
8.Bh4 seems dubious. White could save a lot of time by just playing 8.BxN now. Watch how many times White moves this bishop. With my next move I exploit the fact that White can't play 9.Qd2 to protect f4 as he could in a normal King's Indian.

9. P - Q5 N - B5 10. B - B1 N - K4 11. N x N B x N 12. P - KN3 ?! N - KR4 13. P - KB4 B - N2 14. Q - B3 N - B3 15. B x N B x B 16. O - O - O P - B3!

After the game, Andy said 16. O - O - O may have been a mistake and the funny thing is ... he may be right! But doesn't it follow that if a move as natural as castling is wrong, then logically something must be fundamentally wrong with your game? 16. ... c6! attempts to open the c-file to White's king.

Many inexperienced students of the game may not know that when you castle on opposite wings, the strategy becomes very simple - it's a race to see who gets to the opponent's king first! (Implementation of this strategy may not be so easy.)

17. P - KN4 Q - R4 18. K - N1 B - N2!



Position after 18. ... B - N2!

A very good move. In fact I gave this position to several popular P.C. programs with less than a minute and none of them even suggested this move. (By comparison the program(s) find mate in 3 or 4 almost instantly.) The idea is tempo-saving and line-closing (to my king).. Put the bishop back on f6 and compare the following sequence: g5, Bg7; gh, Bxh6; my bishop has moved twice, is misplaced, and further the g-file is now half-open. In addition to this, White threatens h4-h5-hg; when my bishop will be hanging and my king even more exposed. Now in response to g5, I just play ... h5; closing lines and threatening ... Bg4. Sometimes, chess is a simple game! A little DEE-♆♆♆♆♆ (before I attack). *(A.J.'s handwritten manuscript shows a little picket fence after the syllable DEE. - R.P.)*

19. P - KR4 P x P 20. P x P P - QN4 21. N - N3? Q - N3

One strong player (who's been AL State Champion in the past!) remarked, "I thought White stood O.K. after 21. Nb3". Andy said he thought I'd play (the erroneous) 21. ... Qa4.

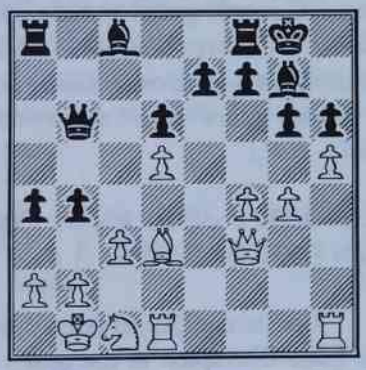
Sermon time. There are two very important things a lower rated player needs to understand if he's serious about improving his game. 1) Make a plan and stick to it. Continuity of thought and ideas is very important in chess. 2) Plan, envision and visualize double attacks. Averbakh, in his book on tactics, said, "Double attacks, in one form or another, form the basis for all chess combinations."

My queen (after 21. Nb3) belongs on b6 because I'm attacking on the dark squares and b6 is a dark square. My queen belongs on b6 because it complements the bishop on g7 or a rook on b8. (Focal point is square b2 - "double attack"). I also

have access to d4 where my queen and bishop would form a battery on the long diagonal. Also my queen belongs on b6 because it has to get out of the way of my pawns. My pawns are going to open lines to the White king.

Believe it or not, the move 21.Nb3 loses *two* tempi. (many people would have thought that because it hit my queen, the knight move lost *at most* one tempo.) But understand that *no matter what White did* I was going to play ... Qb6 anyway. And because I gain another tempo with ... a4, the knight move actually lost 2 tempi.

22. B - Q3 P - QR4 23. P - R5 P - R5 24. N - B1 P - N5



Position after 24. ... P - N5

25. R - R2!

I almost fell out of my chair when Andy played this move. (One player mistakenly called it a blunder.) Several players suggested 25. c4. Then 25. ... a3; and if 26.b3 then 26. ... Qd4 and it's all over. Calculating (or at least sensing) this Andy opts for a move that covers both offense and defense.

25. ... P x P (c3) 26. P - N5

Now if after 26. g5 Andy had his two tempi that he lost with his knight back, he'd be doing fine.

26. ... R - N1

Threatening 27. ... c2+ and 28. ... Bxb2 winning.

27. P - N3 P x P (b3) 28. N x P Q - R4!

Black's threat is the sac on b3, followed by ...c2+, winning. If 29. Bc4, then 29. ... Qa4 30.Qd3 Bf5 (the white-square bishop finally has its say).

29. R - QB1 R x N ch!

This wins, but did I miss my chance at a brilliancy? The move 29. ... Bg4!!, does it lead to a forced mate? (30.Qxg4 Rxb3+ 31.ab Qa1+! 32.Kxa1 c2+, ...). Did I miss my shot? I'll let the reader decide.

30. P x R P - B7+ 31. K x P

Of course, any other capture of the c-pawn by White would allow ...Qa1 mate.

31. ... Q - R7+ 32. K - Q1 Q x R

A won game. I redoubled my efforts to insure that I do win.

33. P x RP B x P 34. P x P P x P 35. R x B

Andy's trying to confuse things, probably not a bad idea if simple play is just going to achieve a naught. Andy told me after the game he had been counting on 36.Qg4 when he played 35.Rxc8. He'd missed the simple 36. ... Qh5, winning. Now he can resign but plays on until the queens are about to come off.

35. ... R x R 36. Q - K4 Q - N8+ 37. K - Q2 B x P+!

38. K - K2

If 38.Qxf4, then ...Qc1+, picking off the queen.

38. ... Q - R7+ 39. K - B3 Q - N6+ 40. K - K2 Q - N5+ 41. K - B2 B - N6+ 42. resigns.

0 - 1

Maintaining the ACF Membership Roster ...

Look at the mailing address on this issue of *Alabama Chess Antics*. The first line contains (i) your membership type (REG = Regular, SCH = Scholastic, LIF = Life, AFFL = Affiliate); your ACF expiration date; (iii) your ACF membership, which in most cases is identical to your USCF membership number.

It is **up to you** to renew your membership before or when it expires and to bring problems to the **Secretary/Treasurer**'s attention if you or someone you know isn't getting the *Antics*. His mailing address and phone number appear page 2.

Delivery dates of the same issue to different members ay vary by as much as ten days due to the nature of bulk mail delivery.

Doesen't 1. g4 Lose? *by David Hayes*

The Spike or Grob Opening line begins with the ugly looking 1. g4. Many players would not dream of making such an ugly first move in a serious game of chess. It wrecks the Kingside pawn structure with an unprotected advanced flank pawn. But, as you are about to see, it offers White many tactical shots along unusual opening lines. I began playing the Grob as an opportunity to exercise my tactical skills, and have some fun along the way.

The Grob is a wonderful surprise weapon against good players who are solidly booked up on common openings. I found the Grob especially lethal in fast time control games like blitz (a time control where a player must make all his moves in 5 minutes). For example, I played a Grob blitz against one A-class player at the Huntsville Chess Club. I won the game in very few moves. Appalled, he demanded that I play that ugly opening again. We did, and I won again. This cycle continued for five games. The Grob won each game to the horror of my stunned opponent.

The Grob is effective in slower time controls too. The Dutch Grandmaster Grob used his namesake to win many pretty correspondence players more than 200 points above me in rated slow time controls games.

Below are four recent miniatures. Each one demonstrates the strength of the Grob. The first is a classic Grob example that I have played out many times on the Free Internet Chess Server.

Event "ICS" Date "1997.12.6"
White "Hayes" Black "mkudzin"

1. g4

A move which frees White's Bishop to seize the long diagonal. In addition, it threatens to disrupt Black's Kingside with a timely g5 should Black develop his Knight naturally to f6.

1. ... d5

A common reply which controls the center, blocks the long diagonal, and threatens g4.

2. Bg2

Ignoring the threat on g4!

2. ... Bxg4

Capturing and developing at the same time. Black plays instinctively good moves, but fails to see White's tactical possibilities. Still, 2... c6 3. h3 e5 4. d4 e4 5. c4 Be6 6. Nc3 Ne7 7. Qb3 Qb6 is better, but unclear.

3. c4!

Ripping the center. Usually, this move is good for about a minute of thinking time off my opponent's clock as they try to find a good response to the sac of a second pawn.

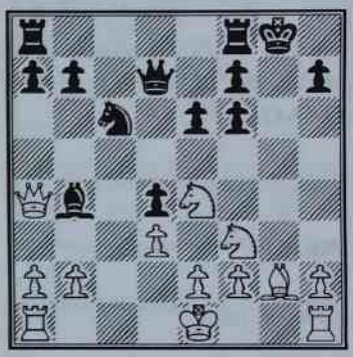
3. ... c6

Of course not 3... dxc4 which is refuted by 4. Bxb7 although 4... Nd7 5. Bxa8 Qxa8 6. f3 is an awkward position for White.

4. cxd5 cxd5 5. Nc3 e6??

Still playing natural moves when tactics are paramount. 5...Nf6 6. Qb3 e6 holds the center but forfeits the Queen side to Qxb7.

6. Qa4+ Qd7 7. Qxg4 Nf6 8. Qa4 Nc6 9. d3 Be7 10. Bg5 O-O 11. Nf3 d4 12.Bxf6 gxf6 13. Ne4 Bb4+



14. Qxb4! Nxb4 15. Nxf6+ Kg7 16. Nxd7 Nc2+ 17. Kd2 Nxa1 18. Nxf8. Mkudzin resigns. **1 - 0**

The next game demonstrates how easy it is for White to demolish black's center While maintaining pressure on the Kingside.

Event "ICS" Date "1997.12.7"
White "Hayes" Black "RotbVic"

1. g4 e5

A common move waiting to see what white plans next.

2. c4

Restraining d5.

2. ... d5

Refusing to yield.

3. Bg2 c6

3... dxc4!? is better.

4. cxd5 cxd5 5. Qb3 Ne7

Black develops this Knight to an awkward square instead of Nf6 because he fears g5.

6. Nc3 e4 7. d3

Tearing at the center to free the long diagonal is a common theme in the Grob.

7. ...exd3 8. Nxd5 dxe2 9. Nxe2 Nbc6 10. Bg5 Qa5+ 11. Nec3 Ng6 12.O-O-O Bc5

If Black could just castle ...

13. Rhe1+

Game over, man!

13. ... Nce7 14. Nxe7 Nxe7 15. Bxb7 Bxf2?

A desperate attempt at counterplay.

16.Rxe7+ Kf8 17. Qxf7++

RotbVic checkmated. **1 - 0**

This is the shortest checkmate I have ever had against a good player. Tactical errors will be punished.

Event "ICS" Date "1997.12.6"
White "Hayes" Black "sparkles"

1. g4 b6?

Begging the next move.

2. Bg2 Nc6 3. d4 d5 4. Nc3 e6 5. e4

Tearing at the center... again.

5. ... g6?

Black has no time for this.

6.exd5 exd5 7. Nxd5 Bb7 8. Qe2+ Nge7?

The final error. 8... Be7 is refuted by 9. Bg5 where the end is near but not here!

9. Nf6++

Sparkles checkmated. **1 - 0**

My next opponent is one of the gods on FICS. Caught sleeping, he goes down two pieces in the opening, but still manages to put up a fight with plenty of drawing and winning chances.

Event "ICS" Date "1997.12.7"
White "Hayes" Black "family"

1. g4 d5 2. Bg2 Bxg4 3. c4 c6 4. cxd5 cxd5 5. Nc3 e6?? 6. Qa4+

By now,you should see this combo in your sleep.

6. ... Qd7 7. Qxg4 Nf6 8. Qa4 Nc6 9.d3 Bc5 10. Bg5 Ng4?

This bait manages to suck my Queen from defense of the Queenside.

11. Qxg4 Nb4 12. O-O-O?

Asking for it.

12. ... d4

Here it comes.

13. Ne4 Nxa2+ 14. Kb1 Qa4 15. Nf3 Nb4 16. Nxc5 Qc2+ 17. Ka1 Qxc5 18. Nxd4 Qa5+ 19. Kb1 Rc8

(diagram top of next column)

20. Nc6!

Got to give some back.

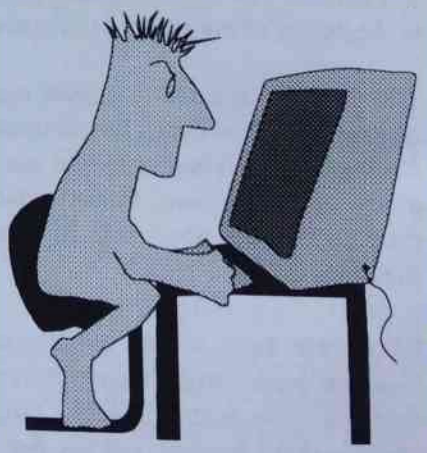
20. ... Qa2+ 21.Kc1 Nxc6 22. Bxc6+ Rxc6+ 23. Kd2 Qxb2+ 24. Ke1

"Family" forfeits on time in a lost position. 1-0

These games have demonstrated the potential of the Grob. I hope you try it. I think you will like it.

David Hayes

24-Dec-97



1997 Huntsville City Championship *by Bill Melvin*

The Huntsville Chess Club (HCC) held the annual Huntsville City Championship from September 29 - October 27, 1997. While I can remember a record low turnout of four(!) competitors one year, the HCC faithfully holds the competition each year. I've now won this event at least five or six times. I've also been rudely crushed in this event at least twice by John Morash. The 1997 event did not feature John Morash, but did include a Master (me), an Expert (Gerald Larson), and a Class A player (John Daugherty) among the 13 participants. While I eventually won the event with a perfect 5-0 score, a couple of my games were exciting and could have easily gone the other way.

Final Standings

Points	Name
5	Bill Melvin
4	John Daugherty
3 ½	Gerald Larson, Gerald Wheeler
3	Wayne Kendrick, Roger McIntyre, David Hayes
2	Frank Brown, William Lucas, Bo Williams
1 ½	Keith Artman, Sakar Chintalapati
1	Norman Levine

Al Gower published a bulletin containing all of the games from the championship including four of mine which I annotated. The bulletin (which was distributed at the club each week) added flavor to the event and all of the games were hard fought.

Huntsville City Championship
Round 1 Board 1 40/1 SD/30
9/29/97
Frank Brown Bill Melvin

1. e4 e5

My six-year old son Miles is watching me play a tournament game for the first time. I told him how I would move slowly as he should do next month in his tournament. Since I knew he was watching, I wanted to play moves that I would like him to make. I sure don't want him playing the Sicilian!

2. Nf3 Nc6

Miles has been playing 2. ... Nf6 a lot lately. In one of our games from this night, he found 3. Ne5, d6!! I was shocked and showered him in praise. I may have shown him the follies of 3. ... Ne4?? before, but I'm still impressed that he remembered it! He even continued with 4. Nf3 Ne4, 5. Qe2 (a test) Qe7! Wow!

3. Bc4 Bc5!

I am playing a model game with my son watching! None of this 3. ... Nf6, 4. Ng5 stuff. I'm comfortable with this, but I don't want Miles to have to worry about the Fried Liver Attack or sacrificing a pawn for the initiative.

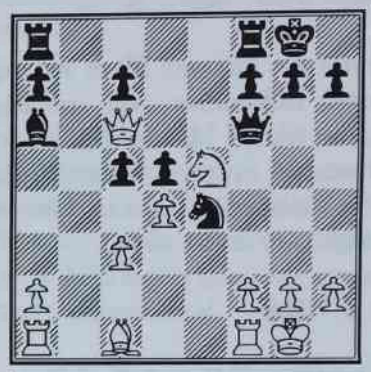
4. c3 Nf6 5. d4 ed 6. cd Bb4+ 7. Nc3?! ...

Unless White can improve on theory, this setup is highly questionable.

7. ... Nxe4 8. O-O Bxc3 . bc?! ...

White is already much worse. 9. d5 is the main line and best. Now, Black just keeps the extra pawn.

9. ... d5 10. Bb5 O-O 11. Bxc6 bc 12. Qa4 Qf6 3. Ne5 c5 14. Qc6 Ba6!



Position after 14. ... Ba6!

(The point: 15. Qxf6, gf, 16. Nd7 Bxf1, 17. Nxf8 Bb5 and the knight is trapped.)

15. Nd7?? Qxc6 resigns

0 - 1

Huntsville City Championship
Round 2 Board 1 40/60 SD/30
Bill Melvin Roger McIntire

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 cd 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 d6

It is always discomforting to meet your own opening. No matter who you are, there is a sequence of moves with White and a sequence of moves with Black that lead to a critical position. This is a position where you knowingly play both sides. You must ask: "If White is so good here, then why do I play like this with Black?..." and "If Black is so good here, then

why do I play like this with White?..." Well, the Richter Rauzer Sicilian is the opening that I play from both sides. I rationalize that it is complicated enough to justify playing both sides. Still, I've got doubts about playing it with Black. White just gets a nice game in variations like this example.

6. Bg5 e6 7. Qd2 Be7 8. O-O-O O-O 9. Nb3 ...

I've met this line with Black and experienced difficulties over the board (against Master Michael Zelkind from Atlanta, for instance) before. Indeed, 9. Nb3 is a really good try here even though 9. f4 is also strong.

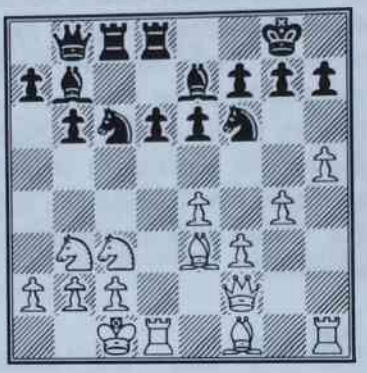
9. ... Qb6

This is sort of the main line. I always thought it was best and I just didn't understand it. The 9. ... a6, 10. Bxf6 gf6 nonsense I used to play with Black here was nearly losing, I thought. Well, after this game I'm no longer convinced that 9... a6 is objectively worse than 9. ... Qb6. Maybe this entire Rauzer variation with 7. ... Be7 is just bad?

10. f3 Rd8 11. Be3 Qc7 12. Qf2 ...

I questioned the soundness of this move in our post-mortem. I didn't remember the move for White here. As it turns out, 12. Qf2 is the main line here and the opening books even give it an "!". Black has two main tries here: 12. ... d5 and 12. ... Nd7. Theory gives White an edge in both of these lines. During the game, I thought that 12. ... d5 would lead to a bad Black pawn structure and 12. ... Nd7 would be too slow. This evaluation seems accurate. Black's position is unsatisfactory. Faced with no way to realize a5 or b5 without material loss, my opponent adopts a slow approach. During the post-mortem, I recommended moves like 12. ... Ne5 to my opponent. I'm not sure if this is any better than the book lines, but it is interesting.

12. ... b6?! 13. g4 Bb7 14. h4 Rac8 15. h5 Qb8?



Position after 12. ... Qb8?

My opponent was worried about lines like 15. ... Ne5, 16. Nb5 Qb8, 17. Nxa7 Qxa7, 18. Bxb6. In our post-mortem, I pointed out how White is busted after 18. ... Qxa2, 19. Bxd8 Bxd8 and Black is threatening the knight on b3 and shots like ... Ng4. I also consider two pieces to be worth much more than rook and pawn. My opponent should have tried something like .. Ne5 here.

16. g5 Ne8 17. g6!? ...

I considered 17. f4 here and it must be the better move. White has a big edge in any event. My move weakens the 'hard to defend' e6 square for Black.

17. ... Ne5 18. gf+ Kxf7

At the time, I thought this was the best move. Now, I'm convinced that Black is probably losing regardless. While the e6 pawn falls after 18. ... Nxf7, 19. Nd4 Nc7 (the point, I thought of 15. ... Qb8!), 20. Bh3, this is undoubtedly the best tasting poison. The king doesn't have a bright future on the same file as my queen.

19. Nd4 Bc6 20. Bh3 Bd7 21. f4 Nc4 22. f5 e5 23. Ne6 Nf6 24. Nxd8 Rxd8 25. Bg5 b5 26. Bxf6 Bxf6 27. Bf1 Rc8 28. Rg1 Bc6 29. Bxc4 bc4 30. Qe2 Qb4 31. a3 Qc5 32. h6 Rg8 33. hg Rxg7 34. Qh5+ Kf8 35. Qh6 Bg5 36. Rxg5 Qe3+ 37. Kb1 Qxg5 38. Qxd6+ resigns

1 - 0

I sympathize with Black: it is hard to drum up counterplay against such attacks.

Huntsville City Championship
Round 3 Board 1 40/1 SD/30
Benko Gambit

John Daugherty	**BillMelvin**
(1906)	**(2267)**

Annotations by Bill Melvin.

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 c5 3. d5 b5 4. cb a6 5. f3 ...

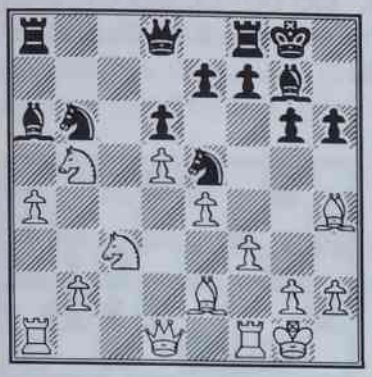
Okay, I am out of book here. This irregular move is rarely seen. It has its points, though.

5. ... d6 6. e4 g6 7. Na3 Bg7 8. Nge2 O-O 9. Nc3 Nfd7

I was asked after the game about 9. ... Nbd7 which happens to be the book move. I honestly can't claim that my move is better. Still, moving the 'f' knight is often thematic in these Benoni-ish positions to keep the knights from getting too tangled. As it turns out, the book line has the 'f' knight' eventually going to e8.

10.Be2 ab 11. Naxb5 Ba6 12. O-O

Nb6 13. a4 N8d7 14. Bg5 h6 15. Bh4 Ne5



Position after 15. ... Ne5

This must be a critical position. Black's position is suspicious. The missing pawn is not a problem (don't play the Benko Gambit if you aren't comfortable being down a pawn). However, the inability of Black's pieces to coordinate effectively is a concern.

16. b3 Bxb5 17. Bxb5 f5

Black's position looks much worse. Exchanging on b5 was questionable and the f5 break looks hazardous.

18. a5?! Nc8 19. a6 Na7 20. Be2 g5 21. Be1 Rb8 22. Ra4 Qb6

It is hard to believe in White's 'a' pawn advance (looks potentially weak). The idea behind 22. Ra4 is interesting but a little unusual.

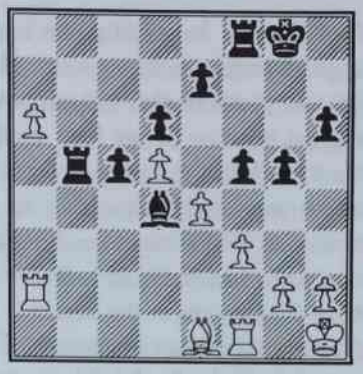
23. Bc4 Nxc4 24. bc Qb2 25. Ra2

Black probably should have played 24. ... Bd4+ first. For White, 25. Ne2 seems to keep the advantage.

25. ... Bd4+ 26. Kh1 Qb3 27.Qxb3 Rxb3

John and I each have around 10 minutes for 13 moves.

28. Nb5 Nxb5 29. cb Rxb5



Position after 29. ... Rxb5

The position is very unclear. White has the better looking bishop, but Black has a better pawn structure and a safer king.

30.ef Ra8 31.g4 Rb6 32.Bg3Raxa6

I prefer 32. ... Rbxa6 in retrospect. I think Black would do better to trade some rooks. At least 32. ... Rbxa6 leaves more options open.

33. Re2 Kf7 34. Rfe1 Bf6 35.f4 c4 36. fg hg 37. h4 c3 38. Rc2

Black may already be winning. Defensive rook moves are not the best way regardless. White had to think earlier about getting the bishop or king back on
defense.

38. ... Rb2 39. Rec1 Raa2

White lost on time.

0 - 1

1997 Huntsville City Championship Round 4 Board 1 10/20/97 40/1 SD/30 Sicilian Defense

Bill Melvin (2267)	**Gerald Larson (2039)**

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 cd 4. Nd4 Qc7

I hadn't played Gerald a tournament game in about a decade. It just now dawned on me that this was Gerald's old pet system. I have never faced this against anyone else and had long forgotten anything I might have prepared in the 1980s.

5. Nc3 ...

ECO gives 5. c4 and 5. Nb5 as the main attempts. I am suspicious of the 'White is much better' evaluation given 5. Nb5 in this line. My move is sort of transpositional.

5. ... e6 6. Be2 a6 7. Be3 Nf6 8. O-O Bb4

If you are trying to find this in ECO, we are now in B49 after having transposed from B32 and B47. I'm surprised that I followed theory this long as I was out in the streets on move 4!

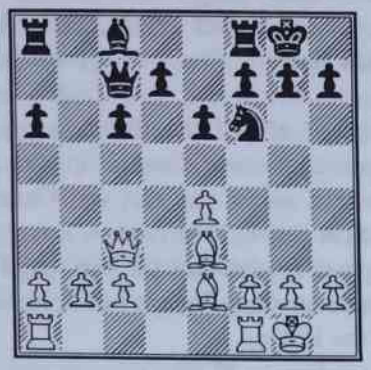
9. Nxc6 ...

Theory prefers 9. Na4 here. My move supposedly leads to an even position.

9. ... bc 10. Qd4 ...

Incredibly, this is apparently not the best move. If you believe the books, Black should now play 10. ... c5, 11. Qc4 Bb7, 12. Bf3 Qe5! with a slight edge as in Gligoric - Taimanov Buenos Aires 1960. Gerald and I missed this in the post mortem. I was concerned about 10. ... c5, 11. Qc4 a5 having missed 12. Nb5 and White is winning. Looks like we are on our own after Gerald's next move.

10. ... Bxc3!? 11. Qxc3 O-O



Position after 11. ... O - O

I really like White's position here. I felt that I had a huge edge. Bishops are a wonderful advantage to have. However, I underestimated Black's center pawns. 12. e5 is definitely interesting here.

12. Bf3!? e5

This surprised me, but in retrospect makes a lot of sense. I had assumed that the d6 square would be super weak. As it turns out, Black has sufficient resources to break in the center. 13. Bg5 would be interesting for White here. I'm still not sure that capturing on f6 is such a horrible threat. I felt that I could get more by doubling on the d file. This probably isn't the best plan.

13. Rfd1 d6 14. Rd2 Be6 15. Rad1 Ne8

I still felt that White held a monster edge. The e8 knight shuts in the rook on f8 and makes Black passive for a while. However, Black is going to eventually break in the center and I couldn't find an active move for White. I finally decided to just gradually improve my position as I didn't think that Black could realize the d5 break any time soon. How wrong I was...

16. b3 f6?!

All of Black's kingside pawn moves are questionable in this game. However, this move tempts me into weakening the position of my light squared bishop. Moving a piece around doesn't necessarily constitute an improvement! White might consider long range plans like Rd3, Bc1, Ba3 to increase the tension in the center. The light squared bishop belongs on f3 to try and hold back the Black pawn breaks.

17. Bh5?! g6 18. Be2 Rf7?!

The post mortem convinced Gerald and me that the time was ripe for 18. ... d5! when Black probably even has the advantage. As it turns out, I blunder into a worthwhile Exchange sacrifice.

19. Bc4 d5 20. ed cd 21. Rxd5 Bxd5 22. Rxd5 Kg7 23. Rc5 ...

During the game, I originally thought that 19. Bc4 was a huge mistake. However, the Exchange sacrifice does open the board up to White's liking. I even thought I was going to casually win the Exchange back and remain a pawn to the good. Black's next move put me in my place.

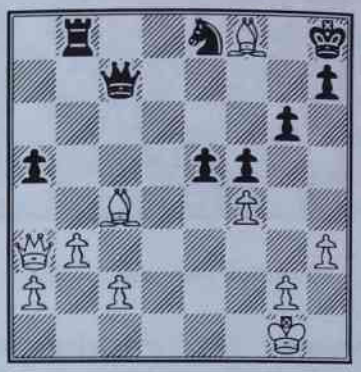
23. ... Qd8!

Okay, so I didn't want the rook anyways! White still has good prospects with the active bishops. The 'point system' doesn't really apply at present.

24. h3 Rc7 25. Qa5 Rxc5 26. Qxc5 Qd6 27. Qa5 f5?!

Play has been reasonable for the last several moves. This is another move which weakens Black's kingside. We are both now in a bit of time trouble.

28. Bc5 Qd7 29. Qc3 Qc7 30. Qb4 Rb8 31. Bf8+ Kh8 32. Qa3 a5 33. f4?! ...



Position after 33. f4?!

At the time, I thought this was a splendid move. Now, I think it weakens White as much as it weakens Black. It was sure fun to play at the time!

33. ... Rd8 34. Bh6 ...

I feel like I'm only trying for cheapos. This is an illusion, though, as the cheapos come naturally with such strong bishops. I've got to be careful as the natural 34. Qb2 runs into 34. ... Qb6+, 35. Kh2 Qd4 and maybe Black survives. Then again, the bishops are so strong that these endings should favor White.

34. ... Rd1+ 35.Kh2 Qd6 36.Qxa5 ef

This has gotten hairy! I resisted 36. Qxd6? Nxd6, 37. fe Nc4, 38. bc4 Ra1 and the White queenside pawns are all goners.

37. Qc3+ Rd4 38. Qf3 Nf6?!

(continued on page 14)

My Best Game from the Magic City Open *by Andrew Whatley*

White: Andrew Whatley (2254)
Black: Stephen Muhammed (2440)
November 15, 1997; 30/1, G/1

1. d4 Nf6 2. Nf3 g6

A slight surprise since our previous game went 1. d4 Nf6 2. Bg5 e6 3. Nf3 etc.

3. Bg5 Bg7 4. Nbd2 d5

This is probably the most challenging move for White. Instead of ... d6, which after 5. e4 allows White to get a pretty good game because of an edge in space, the move ... d5 forces White to prove something in a practically equal position. After this move, I knew the game would be a tough fight.

5. e3 O - O 6. Be2 c6 7. O - O ?! Qb6 8. Rb1?! Bf5

By this time, I realized that something had gone wrong. My goal after 4. ... d5 was to have a setup of c4, Qb3 and pressure the d5 pawn with a possible knight maneuver of f3-e1-d3-b4 (as played in Salov-Kozul which went 1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.Bg5 Bg7 4.Nbd2 d5 5.e3 O - O 6.Be2 Nbd7 7.O - O Re8 8.c4 e5 9.Rc1 e4 10.Ne1 c6 11.cd cd 12.Qb3 Qb6 13.Nc2 Qe6 14.Nb4 Bf8 15.Bb5 Rd8 16.Nxd5 with advantage for White.)

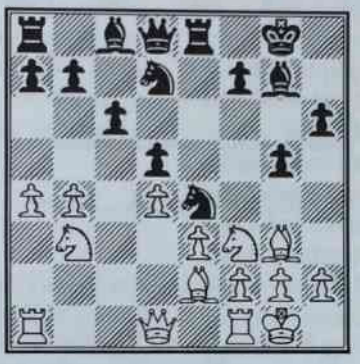
However, after 6. ... c6 the position is much different than that after 6. ... Nbd7. I did not realize this and played 7. O - O allowing 7. ... Qb6 hitting the b2 pawn. Instead of 7.O - O, best for White is 7. b4! permanently stopping ... c5 and preparing c4 and a queenside attack. Lines after 7.b4 include:

a) 7. ... a5 8.a3 ab 9.ab Rxa1 10.Qxa1Bf5 11.c3 Nbd7 12.O - O h6 13.Bh4 Qa8 [13. ... g5 14.Bg3 Nh5 15.Nxg5 Nxg3 16.fg] 14.Qb2

b) 7...Nbd7 8.Nb3 Re8 9.a4 e5 10.c3!

b1) 10. ... Qc7 11.Nfd2

b2) 10 ... ed 11.cd h6 12.Bh4 g5 13.Bg5 Ne4 14.O-O *(diagram)*



(Variation b2) after 14.O-O)

b21) 14. ... Nxg3 15.hg Nf6 16.b5

b22) 14. ... Nc3 15.Qc2 Nxe2+ 16.Qxe2 f5 [16. ... Nf6 17.Be5 Δ b5] 17.Qc2 Nf6 18.b5 cb 19.ab Qb6 20.Ra5

b23) 14. ... f5 15.Bd3 Ndf6 16.b5

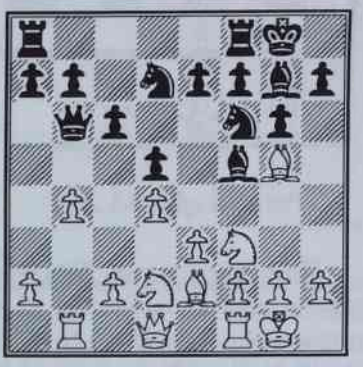
b24) 14. ... Ndf6 15.Be5 Bf5 16.Nc5 Nc3 [16. ... Nxc6 17.bc Δ trade off the light-square bishops and play on the b-file] 17.Qc2 Nxe2+ Qxe2 with Q-side pressure.

In conclusion, after 7.b4 White can maintain and build upon his space advantage on the queenside.

Also note that instead of my 8.Rb1?!, best is 8. b3 with the idea of c4, c5 (hitting the queen), b4 and Nb3.

Now back to the game.

9.b4 (White has used 16 minutes) **9. ... Nbd7** (Black has used 17 minutes).



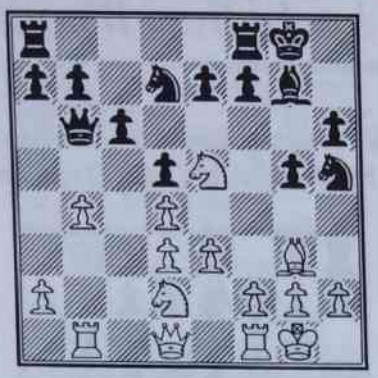
Position after 9. ... Nbd7

Suddenly I realize that I cannot move my c-pawn and that my plans for an attack on the queenside are quickly fading. I consider 10.Rb3 but don't like my prospects after 10. ... a5 11.ba (11.a3 ab 12.ab Ra2) 11. ... Qxa5 12.Rxb7 Qxa2. So after 13 minutes of pondering whether I might possibly still have an attack I decide that I do not and therefore must first try to get rid of my opponent's best piece.

10. Bd3 Bxd3 11.cd

After this exchange, I felt no worse in the position. You might ask why can't Black play 11. ... a5 as he could in the previous note. 11. ... a5 leads to 12. ba! Qxa5 13.Rxb7 Qxa2 14.Bxf6 (note that there is no bishop on f5 to protect the knight on d7 as before) 14. ... Bxf6 15.Rxe7. However, I did feel that the position was a little devoid of play. That would soon change ...

11. ... h6 12. Bh4 g5 13. Bg3 Nh5 14. Ne5



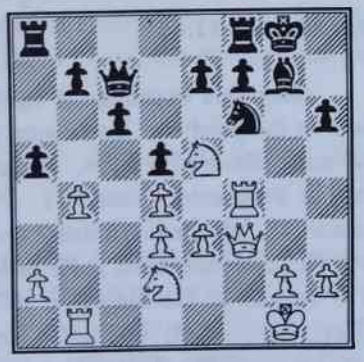
Position after 14. Ne5

This move saves White and keeps the position interesting. I was expecting 14. ... Nxg3 15.Nxd7 Qc7 16.Nxf8 Nxf1 17.Nxf1 Bxf8 18.Ng3 where White has a small edge. After the game continuation, I was able to exploit Black's weakened king position.

14. ... Ndf6? 15.f4! gf?!

After 15. ... Nxg3 16.hg Qc7 White's advantage is less because he does not have an open line to Black's king.

16. Bxf4 Nxf4?! 17. Rxf4 Qc7?! 18. Qf3 a5



Position after 18. ... a5

19. a3?

The immediate 19.Nf1 ab 20.Ng3 Rxa2 21.Nf5 Kh7 22.Rh4 (22. ... Ng8 23.Qg4) with the idea 23.Qh3 is better.

19. ... ab 20. ab Qd6 21. Nf1 Qe6 21. Nf1 Qe6 22. Ng3 Kh7 23. Nf5 (White has used 53 minutes) **23. ... Rg8** (Black has used 58 minutes) **24. Rh4 Rh8 25. Rf1 Bf8 26. Qf4 Ng8**

Position after 26. ... Ng8

27. g4?

I miss 27.Qg5!! which puts Black away. The unstoppable threat is Nxh6 followed by Rxf7+. 27. ... Qf6 runs into 28. Qh6 when the threat of Nxh6 is deadly.

27. ... f6 28. Nf3 Kg6 29. Qc7?! Kf7??

Black had nearly survived that attack. After 29. ... Qc8 White would most lokely have repeated the position and then would have decided on Rh5 trying to keep Black in a bind. However, in a time scramble Black has left his pawn *en prise*.

30. Qxb7 Ra2 31. Rc1 Rb2?? 32. Rh5?? Rh7??

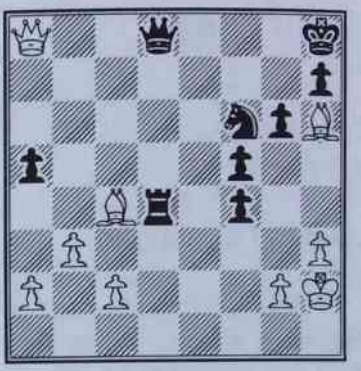
Both White and Black have seen 34.Rxc6 Rxb4 35.Rxe6 Rxb7, but now White sees that he doesn't have to take the queen.

33. Rxc6 Rxb4 34. Qc7 resigns.

(continued from page 12)

It is hard to suggest a good alternative for Black. The time trouble didn't help.

39. Qa8+ Qd8



Position after 33. ... Qd8

40. Bg5 Qxa8??

Black had to play 40. ... Kg7 with a position full of venom. Play might continue: 41. Qb7+ Rd7, 42. Qa6 Ng4+, 43. hg Qxg5 and Black is winning. White has to play 42. Bxf6+ Kxf6, 43. Qa6+ and I wouldn't underestimate Black's chances. I would even take Black for choice here as the kingside pawn storm must be answered before the queenside pawn advance.

With all of these worthy looking options, it would be easy for White to miss 41. Qxd8 Rxd8, 42. Bf4 with chances for both sides. Or, perhaps 41. Qa6 is best for White. Lots of chess remained to be played.

41. Bxf6 (mate)

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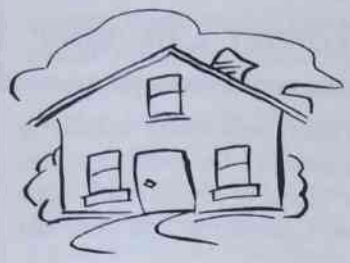

Scholastic Section

Chess Parents

Chess Parents is a series of articles from the parent's perspective of a chess-playing child. Many of our readers are 'chess parents' and the plan is to have a different author every issue. The articles in this series can be about anything as long as they mention a parent, child, and chess. We desperately need contributions to keep this series going, so send in your story! - Bill Melvin.

Miles and miles to go *by Bill Melvin*

My story is a little different from most (but not all) of the other chess parents. My son is named Miles and he is six years old. I've been a chess master for around 10 years and Miles has no chance of beating me in a serious game of chess for many years. On the positive side, Miles has ready access to the local chess club, tons of books, and more advice than he could ever want! He has played in one tournament and his rating is less than 600.

The biggest problem which initially presented itself was: "How can Miles and I play a game of chess?" He knows how all of the pieces move and can usually see about one move ahead. However, I would win every game even with material odds far greater than a queen.

I read somewhere how material odds were not as good as time odds. Material odds lead to different games which don't resemble normal chess (which I'm trying to teach). For instance, with odds of queen and two roods I would just build a solid fortress with minor pieces and pawns and pick off his pieces as they approached. This is hardly a worthwhile experience to repeat over and over. But, with time odds the game is the same. However, I make many mistakes moving quickly and he only needs to survive a while to win the game. We typically play with 10 minutes for him to my 1 minute. The downside to this approach is that he sometimes feels compelled to move quickly also. This is bad as he needs to use his time to consider all of the possibilities.

We experimented with another way of playing with odds of 10 minutes to 2 minutes where I tell him where I would have gone after each of his moves. Unfortunately, he tends to play my move on his next move (where it rarely works), so this approach still needs work.

As it turns out, I still win nearly every game at 10:1 time odds. This is discouraging to both of us. It is not uncommon for him to play a masterpiece (only dropping a piece or two) and then fall for a cheap checkmate with 2 seconds on my clock. We both want him to win some games, but how should we go about this? should I deliberately throw games? Make a weak move on purpose? Well, I have a problem with this as it sets a bad example although I've occasionally used a few extra seconds on purpose which amounts to the same thing. What works best for us is to occasionally reverse the board when I've got an overwhelming attack. Miles gets an overwhelming position and I get a real challenge trying to put up resistance in view of a forced mate. When Miles wins these he feels good (and counts it as a win for himself) and I feel good knowing that I didn't have to throw a game to get him the necessary win.

So how are we doing? Miles is interested in chess although physical sports (soccer, hockey and baseball) are his true passions. We don't play all that often although Miles has been around chess since birth (I've got a picture of me 'playing' him when he was under a month old). He gets excited about the mention of a chess tournament and that makes me feel good that I'm not forcing him to do something he doesn't like. Practice makes perfect and that holds for the son of a Master as well as anyone else. He is still learning the importance of development, how to perform basic mates, and to consider his opponent's moves. We haven't spent much time on material values, opening theory (any developing move is good), or anything else. For now, it is only important that he enjoy playing chess.

I must confess that I was hoping to get at least one chess player out of my three children. I occasionally play with Holly (age 5) and Maria (age 4) as well. It will be interesting to see if one of my children takes a big interest in the game. In a way it is harder for them, though, as one of the big joys in chess is beating your dad. I remember beating mine, but my children are many years from their first real victory against theirs. In the meantime, my wife has learned some chess basics to practice against the children. It would be kind of funny if none of my children took the game gut my wife became a convert. Time will tell ...

1997 Alabama Scholastic K - 12 Championships *by Warner Chandler*

One hundred five participants assembled in Hoover, Alabama on Saturday, November 8, 1997 for the inaugural edition of this Scholastic Chess championship, sanctioned by the Alabama Chess Federation. The K-12 Grade Championship tournament was held at the beautiful Hunter Street Baptist Church recreation facility located near the Riverchase Galleria. The tournament was a United States Chess Federation rated, four-round Swiss System tournament where no player got eliminated and each had up to 45 minutes to complete their moves for a single game. Players vied across the chessboard for one of the thirteen Grade Champion titles awarded for their respective grades.

Tremendous effort was spent by these "chess kids" in determining who would manifest the skill and determination necessary to overcome the often heated competition to emerge victorious at the end of a long day. I am sure that the champions that were "crowned" that day were glad they had prepared well for the contest; no doubt there were many more that might have prepared harder if they had only known how close they would come.

Fourteen champion titles were awarded (there were co-champions in one grade), but there were twenty-two other 2nd through 4th place trophies, as well as special trophies awarded for brilliant games (3), upset (1), and protected class performances (6), for a total of 46 championship-style trophies! Throwing in thirteen chess books awarded as consolation prizes, various door prizes, and prizes given for checkmate puzzle solutions, most of the boys and girls took something home with which to remember this tournament. Many also took advantage of the opportunity to purchase a souvenir 3-color tournament T-shirt. Various local businesses sponsoring the event provided prizes, some issuing coupons to all entrants, and there was even a martial arts demonstration for the crowd.

Alabama Chess Federation President Bill Melvin was on hand for game analysis between rounds and the presentation of the awards. He also helped the brilliancy game judge, Kyle Therrell, analyzing game scores submitted for consideration. Both Messrs. Therrell and Melvin are Chess Masters, active in the state and national chess scenes as well as involved in promoting chess and instructing students of the game. Mr. Melvin also demonstrated the techniques used by the winners of brilliancy prizes at the award assembly.

Chief director of the tournament was the nationally respected scholastic chess authority, Dr. Kenneth Sloan, assisted by floor tournament directors Robert Rieves, Kyle Therrell, and Dr. Vasha Rosenblum. Assisting the directors behind the scenes were Bill Jones and John Perham. Many other parent volunteers contributed time and effort both before and during the tournament to make it such a success. The tournament was organized and sponsored by Tom Young of SouthCrest Knights Chess Club in Hoover and Warner Chandler of Oak Mountain Chess Club in North Shelby County.

Tournament Results

Due to the small number of entrants in Kindergarten and 1st grade, these two grades were combined with the 2nd grade section for play. The champion of the Kindergarten section, Matthew Akenhead, posted a 2.5 score out of a possible 4.0, an excellent performance for a player new to tournament chess! Another newcomer, Phillip Jedlovec, placed 2nd. The 1st grade champion, Miles Melvin (yes, that's Bill's son!), was able to overcome the opposition of both his second place challenger, the unrated Christopher Kirchner, and the Kindergarten champ to win his title. Miles has less than a year of tournament experience! (And I forgot to get his autograph!)

The 2nd grade champion, Andrew Chandler (and, yes, that's my boy!), bested both the 2nd and 3rd place finishers in his grade, Gregory Smith and Hunter Coggins, respectively. Tied with Hunter at 2.5 points was Robert Fletcher, who settled for the 4th place trophy by the narrow margin of the 2nd tiebreak calculation. Posting the only 4.0 score in the K-2 section, Andrew has now won two consecutive state grade titles with less than a year of experience!

3rd grade had 12 players, enough for its own section. The 3rd grade champion, Sarah Boyd, overcame her 2nd place challenger, Mickey Kyle Lonsdale, in a 4th round showdown. Though he tied for 2nd place in 3rd grade with a 3.0 score, Philip Ducharme took home the 3rd place trophy based on tiebreaks, and Timmy Wang had the lone 2.5 score in the section, good enough for 4th place. We'll have to keep an eye on all these young K-3 chess champs!

The 4th grade section was the most hotly contested, with 28 players vying for the title, but the eventual champion, Jason Young, emerged with the one and only perfect 4.0 performance in the grade. There was a tie for 2nd place, with Peter Petroff edging out Nathanael Chandler (yes, that's also my boy!) after two tiebreak calculations. Likewise, 4th place was a three-way tie, with the trophy being awarded to Joseph Chaffee on tiebreaks. There is tremendous enthusiasm and chess skill being exhibited in this grade, and if the level of competition keeps improving, this group may well produce some top-tier national players in the future.

The 5th grade section with 19 players was the second largest of the tournament, and also saw stiff competition. The champion,

Kendra King, posted the section's only perfect score by overcoming her last remaining undefeated challenger, Brennan Young (my co-organizer's son), in their final round showdown. Brennan hung on to 2nd place, though, on tiebreaks over four other 3.0 scorers in 5th grade, with John Gipson edging Sophie Cooper for 3rd and 4th places, respectively, on the 2nd tiebreak calculation. This section also saw Christina Anderson produce a game worthy of a brilliancy prize, the first of three awarded. Christina fought hard in a tense struggle and finished off her opponent with a direct attack down the g-file.

Though there were enough 6th graders to have their own section, combining the 6th with the smaller 7th and 8th grades produced a section with less byes, so more players could play all rounds. They came to play chess! And was chess ever played in this section! With 9 place trophy winners among the three grades, there were (count 'em!) ten games won by trophy winners over their fellow trophy winners! The "Sho'nuff Shootout at the O.K. Corral" happened here in Hoover! Jordan Jones picked up the second brilliancy prize for a game in which he played a theoretically accurate "Fried Liver Attack," recovering the sacrificed piece with a nice attack. Jordan was also the clear winner of the 6th grade champion title, and with 3.0 points, finished a full point ahead of the five-player pack who tied for 2nd! Thomas Burwell and John Bryant took the 2nd and 3rd place trophies for the 6th grade on the 1st tiebreak calculation, and Ethan Balch claimed 4th on the 2nd tiebreak.

7th grade produced the only co-champions of the tournament, with Sean Wilson matching 3.0 scores with Al Tanju, last school year's Elementary (K-6) champion. Roy Martin achieved the section's only 4.0 score to earn the championship of the 8th grade, and he had to beat both the 7th grade co-champions to do it! What a performance! No wonder he was awarded the brilliancy prize for the most outstanding game of the tournament. Roy produced a gem in which he played a pretty attack down the f-file, culminating in a piece up mating attack. Andy Berenbok and Robert W. Jones tied for 2nd place at 3.0, with Robert just edging out Andy for the 2nd place trophy on the 2nd tiebreak. This section also produced the biggest upset of the tournament. The trophy went to Robert W. Jones, who at a 565 rating defeated an opponent in the third round with a 911 rating, then surpassed that feat by toppling a 1059 rated opponent in the final round, an upset of almost 500 rating points!

9th through 12th grades were rather thinly represented, with only 8 total players. I know there are more chess hounds out there in high school, so come on! We could have almost handed out trophies to these folks just for showing up. Not! They came to play, too, and Michelle Craig topped Matthew Johnson for the 9th grade championship. Jim Craft came in 2nd in both his game and his 10th grade finish to Taylor Curtis' section-leading 4.0 point championship performance. Joshua Cowart beat his 2nd place challenger, David Self, to become the 11th grade champion, losing only to the sole 12th grader and champion, Pasha Minallah.

Trophies and Awards by Finish Order Within Each Grade

Titles and trophies awarded for the 1997 Alabama Scholastic Chess K-12 Grade Championship are listed below in order of finish by grade:

Kindergarten Champion: Matthew Akenhead, Huntsville

2nd Place: Phillip Jedlovec, Huntsville

1st Grade Champion: Miles Melvin, Huntsville

2nd Place: Christopher Kirchner, Huntsville

2nd Grade Champion: Andrew H. Chandler, Oak Mountain

2nd Place: Gregory M. Smith, Huntsville
3rd Place: Hunter Coggins, Hoover
4th Place: Robert Fletcher, Birmingham

3rd Grade Champion: Sarah Boyd, Birmingham

2nd Place: Mickey Kyle Lonsdale, Ramer
3rd Place: Philip Ducharme, Hoover
4th Place: Timmy Wang, Greystone

4th Grade Champion: Jason Young, Birmingham

2nd Place: Peter Petroff, Huntsville
3rd Place: Nathanael W. Chandler, Oak Mountain
4th Place: Joseph Chaffee, Huntsville

5th Grade Champion: Kendra King, Birmingham

2nd Place: Brennan Young, Hoover
3rd Place: John Gipson, Huntsville
4th Place: Sophie Cooper, Birmingham

6th Grade Champion: Jordan Jones, Hoover

2nd Place: Thomas Burwell, Huntsville
3rd Place: John Bryant, Huntsville
4th Place: Ethan Balch, Huntsville

7th Grade Co-Champion: Al Tanju, Birmingham
Co-Champion: Sean Wilson, Birmingham

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Jefferson County Chess League News *by Dale Robbins*

The first round of the Jefferson County Scholastic Chess League round-robin is in. Congratulations to the contestants and team sponsors on a fine start. Comments indicate that our prime objective of providing a fun venue of semi-formal chess competition among scholastic teams is well on its way to being a grand success!

Eight school teams are participating in our first season of scholastic team competition. There are two sections of competition, Open (High School) and Reserve (Elementary School). In the Reserve Section, the teams are Bryan Elementary, Erwin Elementary, Oak Mountain Intermediate, South Shades Crest Elementary, and Vestavia Hills Elementary - East. The Open Section participants are John Carroll High, Vestivia High, and Jefferson County International Baccalaureate (JCIB).

In the Reserve Section, Oak Mountain received a bye in the first round; thereby taking advantage of extra practice time before their second round initiation in chess league play. Vestavia Hills hosted South Shades Crest in a fun filled yet disappointing home court loss to their Hoover neighbors. Bryan Elementary had better results at home as they came away with a win over visiting Erwin Elementary.

Second round Reserve Section results are due by December 7. South Shades Crest's hearty crew will have to wait till round three before trying for win number two as they enjoy the next round bye. Erwin is scheduled to host Vestavia Hills; each hoping for their first win. Victorious Bryan Elementary will pack up their excited crew and head for untried Oak Mountain who, no doubt, will be fired up to upset the young invaders.

The bye for round one of the Open Section was awarded to John Carrol. Vestavia High stormed the battlements of defending JCIB. However, the invaders were handily repelled by JCIB who achieved the first win the the section.

Vestavia hosts John Carrol next round with JCIB having the bye. Second round results are due in January 17.

Results from each round are sent to Dale Robbins

December 9, 1997

(continued from page 17)

8th Grade Champion: Roy Martin, Birmingham

2nd Place: Robert W. Jones, Birmingham
3rd Place: Andy Berenbok, Decatur

9th Grade Champion: Michelle Craig, Decatur

2nd Place: Matthew Johnson, Hoover

10th Grade Champion: Taylor Curtis, Mountain Brook

2nd Place: Jim Craft, Huntsville

11th Grade Champion: Joshua Cowart, Hoover

2nd Place: David Self, Birmingham

12th Grade Champion: Pasha Minallah, Pelham

Brilliancies:

Most Outstanding Game: Roy Martin
Brilliancy Game: Jordan Jones
Brilliancy Game: Christina Anderson

Biggest Upset: Robert W. Jones

Of those competitors not placing, protected class trophies were awarded for the best performance by players who were:

Rated Under 1200: Mason Williams, 4th grade
Rated Under 1000: Wayne Lee, 5th grade
Rated Under 800: James Tarbox, 4th grade
Unrated (New): Libby Musgrave, 2nd grade
Unrated (New): Will Battle, 2nd grade
Unrated (New): Michael Akenhead, 2nd grade.

Chess books were awarded as consolation prizes (keep studying and playing chess!) to:

1st grader Elizabeth Hall
2nd grader Kara Marie Young
3rd graders Elizabeth Scott and Brittany Melton
4th graders Nathan Hall, Dennis Griffin, Paul Voorhees, Jacklyn Nagle, and Elizabeth Nagle
5th graders Ben Jedlovec and Wayne Lee
6th graders Kishan Yerubandi and Travis Briles.

Alabama Scholastic Chess K-12 Grade Championship
8 November 1997

Section: Grades 9-12

Player	Prev Perf Post	R01 R02 R03 R04	Score
1	Taylor A Curtis 1284 1275 1298	W08 W04 W06 W05	4.0
2	Joshua A Cowart1051 1132 1062	L05 W07 W04 W06	3.0
3	Michelle Craig 0733 0859 0762	L04 W08 L05 W07	2.0
4	Jim Craft UNR 0927 0927	W03 L01 L02 W08	2.0
5	Pasha Minallah UNR 1015 1015	W02 L06 W03 L01	2.0
6	Matt. Johnson UNR 0947 0947	D07 W05 L01 L02	1.5
7	David Self 0919 0633 0837	D06 L02 D08 L03	1.0
8	Tom Staner 0582 0663 0609	L01 L03 D07 L04	0.5

Section: Grades 6-8

Player	Prev Perf Post	R01 R02 R03 R04	Score
1	Roy Martin 1187 1360 1218	W18 W10 W05 W02	4.0
2	Jordan Jones 1230 1244 1232	W12 W03 W09 L01	3.0
3	Al Tanju 1057 1037 1064 W06	L02 W13 W15	3.0
4	Andy J Berenbok 0894 1101 0926	L10 W22 W14 W07	3.0
5	Sean A Wilson 0893 1197 0941	W21 W07 L01 W08	3.0
6	Robert W Jones 0565 1142 0621	L03 B W10 W09	3.0
7	Sebastian DeLorenz 1121 0890 1086	W19 L05 W08 L04	2.0
8	Ethan A Balch 1061 0901 1038	W20 W15 L07 L05	2.0
9	John Bryant 1059 0811 1029	W13 W16 L02 L06	2.0
10	Thomas P Burwell 0911 0877 0906	W04 L01 L06 W16	2.0
11	Travis Briles 0874 0725 0850	L15 L13 W22 W20	2.0
12	Ari Friedman 0871 0860 0867	L02 W20 L15 W21	2.0
13	Kishan Yerubandi 0586 0929 0631	L09 W11 L03 W22	2.0
14	David Alex McLane UNR 0849 0849	L17 W18 L04 W19	2.0
15	Daniel DeVirgilio UNR 0966 0966	W11 L08 W12 L03	2.0
16	David Hall 0862 0761 0850 H	L09 W19 L10	1.5
17	Kendra King 0984 1249 0994	W14 F F F	1.0
18	Brian Turner 0805 0485 0764	L01 L14 L21 B	1.0
19	Ashley, Mitchell 0712 0663 0701	L07 W21 L16 L14	1.0
20	Josh Crichton 0642 0535 0624	L08 L12 B L11	1.0
21	Jeremiah Gafford UNR 0620 0620	L05 L19 W18 L12	1.0
22	Charlie Hunter 0724 0385 0683 H	L04 L11 L13	0.5

Section: Grade 5

Player	Prev Perf Post	R01 R02 R03 R04	Score
1	Kendra King 0984 1228 1014	B W03 W12 W02	4.0
2	Brennan G Young 0997 1002 0999	W13 W10 W04 L01	3.0
3	John E Gipson 0833 0861 0840	W14 L01 W15 W12	3.0
4	Sophie Cooper 0800 1013 0836	W18 W07 L02 W08	3.0
5	Wayne Jarrell Lee 0726 0844 0759	W19 L08 W17 W07	3.0
6	Ben Jedlovec 0604 0986 0713	L07 W18 W09 W10	3.0
7	Lewis Lehe 0978 0774 0944	W06 L04 W08 L05	2.0
8	Jeremy Reed 0844 0753 0824	W15 W05 L07 L04	2.0
9	Andrew J Rozsa 0841 0599 0803	W16 L12 L06 W15	2.0
10	Michael Friedman 0806 0642 0784	W17 L02 W16 L06	2.0
11	Hunter Stevens 0698 0572 0676	L12 W14 L13 W16	2.0
12	Christina Charles 0654 0839 0683	W11 W09 L01 L03	2.0
13	Tim Tanju 0604 0636 0618	L02 L16 W11 W17	2.0
14	Kevin Pelton 0468 0550 0498	L03 L11 B W18	2.0
15	Cale Coggins 0506 0516 0508	L08 W19 L03 L09	1.0
16	Justin Luck 0505 0537 0519	L09 W13 L10 L11	1.0
17	Marie Wilson 0343 0312 0337	L10 B L05 L13	1.0
18	Luke Hanson UNR 0453 0453	L04 L06 W19 L14	1.0
19	Eric Funderburg UNR 0195 0195	L05 L15 L18 B	1.0

Section: Grade 4

Player	Prev Perf Post	R01 R02 R03 R04	Score
1	Jason Young 0815 1239 0969	W28 W07 W12 W04	4.0
2	Peter S Petroff 0944 0914 0950	W23 D18 W19 W08	3.5
3	Nathanael W Chandler 0827 0850 0840	W24 D21 W18 W12	3.5
4	Joseph R Chaffee 0999 1026 1003	W11 W13 W05 L01	3.0
5	Mason Williams 0890 1071 0918	W16 W06 L04 W14	3.0
6	James Tarbox 0654 1010 0812	W17 L05 W15 W13	3.0
7	Nathan Hall 0924 0882 0921	H L01 W26 W19	2.5
8	Dennis Griffin 0849 0820 0836	W26 D19 W21 L02	2.5
9	Jacklyn E Nagle 0734 0735 0735	L19 W10 D11 W18	2.5
10	Paul Voorhees 0705 0748 0709	H L09 W20 W21	2.5
11	Elizabeth Nagle 0675 0770 0689	L04 W24 D09 W22	2.5
12	John-Tyler Spann 0969 0748 0905	W22 W14 L01 L03	2.0
13	David McConnell 0776 0747 0769	W15 L04 W22 L06	2.0
14	Chip Self 0731 0881 0797 W20	L12 W16 L05	2.0
15	Ryan Hittie UNR 0706 0706 L13	W23 L06 W26	2.0
16	Davey Remson UNR 0875 0875	L05 W17 L14 W25	2.0
17	Justin Snider UNR 0730 0730	L06 L16 W24 W23	2.0
18	Adam Burt 0300 0569 0400	B D02 L03 L09	1.5
19	Stephen Harris UNR 0760 0760	W09 D08 L02 L07	1.5
20	Kurt Funderburg UNR 0587 0587	L14 D26 L10 W28	1.5
21	Wesley Barnes UNR 0523 0523	B D03 L08 L10	1.5
22	Trey Kennedy 0575 0494 0560	L12 W28 L13 L11	1.0
23	Travis Tarbox 0472 0439 0459	L02 L15 B L17	1.0
24	Justin Long UNR 0372 0372	L03 L11 L17 B	1.0
25	Eric Allen UNR 0753 0753	F F W28 L16	1.0
26	Jason Olinger UNR 0519 0519	L08 D20 L07 L15	0.5
28	Stuart Lee UNR 0426 0426	L01 L22 L25 L20	0.0

Section: Grade 3

Player	Prev Perf Post	R01 R02 R03 R04	Score
1	Sarah Boyd 0717 0984 0773	D08 W09 W06 W03	3.5
2	Philip Ducharme 0569 0804 0605	W06 L03 W08 W05	3.0
3	Mickey Kyle Lonsdale UNR 0844 0844	W10 W02 W05 L01	3.0
4	Timmy Wang UNR 0715 0715	W07 L05 D10 W09	2.5
5	Brittany Melton 0479 0676 0520	W11 W04 L03 L02	2.0
6	Elizabeth Scott 0429 0607 0468	L02 W11 L01 W10	2.0
7	Thomas Shattuck 0290 0638 0397	L04 D10 W12 D08	2.0
8	Lucas Williams UNR 0585 0585	D01 W12 L02 D07	2.0
9	Brent Whitley UNR 0568 0568	D12 L01 W11 L04	1.5
10	Jeremy Lee 0613 0381 0509	L03 D07 D04 L06	1.0
11	Justin Johnson UNR 0405 0405	L05 L06 L09 W12	1.0
12	Casey Atherton UNR 0299 0299	D09 L08 L07 L11	0.5

Section: Grades K-2

Player	Prev Perf Post	R01 R02 R03 R04	Score
1	Andrew Chandler 0720 1001 0768	W17 W10 W03 W04	4.0
2	Miles Melvin 0520 1052 0786	D07 W09 W05 W11	3.5
3	Gregory M Smith 0700 0816 0727	W14 W08 L01 W12	3.0
4	Hunter Coggins 0815 0812 0814	W11 D05 W07 L01	2.5
5	Kara Marie Young 0550 0634 0587	W16 D04 L02 W08	2.5
6	Matthew Akenhead UNR 0940 0940	W12 L07 D13 W15	2.5
7	Robert Fletcher UNR 0975 0975 D02	W06 L04 W13	2.5
8	Celia Cooper 0352 0506 0409	B L03 W10 L05	2.0
9	Michael Akenhead UNR 0803 0803	W13 L02 L12 W16	2.0
10	Will Battle UNR 0583 0583	W15 L01 L08 W17	2.0
11	Christopher Kitchner UNR 0601 0601	L04 B W17 L02	2.0
12	Libby Musgrave UNR 0802 0802	L06 W16 W09 L03	2.0
13	Kurt von Laven UNR 0754 0754	L09 W14 D06 L07	1.5
14	Phillip Jedlovec UNR 0439 0439	L03 L13 D15 B	1.5
15	Elizabeth W Hall 0495 0445 0487	L10 H D14 L06	1.0
16	Paul Gardner UNR 0397 0397	L05 L12 B L09	1.0
17	Steven Johanson UNR 0278 0278	L01 H L11 L10	0.5

Holiday Tournaments at South Shades Crest Elementary

hess players in the five Scholastic Chess classes at South Shades Crest Elementary School look forward each year to some unique tournaments to celebrate the holiday season. Students in Chess I compete for wooden puzzles or chess cookies in the King Snatcher Tournament. In this tournament, when a player puts an opponent in check, s/he hopes that it goes unnoticed so they can zoom in and win by snatching the king off the board on the next turn! Two points are earned for a "real honest to goodness" checkmate, one point for a king snatch, half a point for a draw and zero for a loss. Students recorded their scores on a round-robin chart. In Grade four Chess I, First Place awards went to Kris Jordan, Charles Snoddy, and Travis Tarbox. Second Place was awarded to James Freeman, Keifer Mayson, Jonathan Pope, Kevin Alborado, and Zack Jones. In Grade five Chess I First Place winners included Logan Hall, Justin Murphy and Justin Camp. Second Place winners were Jared Jackson, Hayley Tucker, Patrick Tatum, Clint Phillips, and Harmon Watkins.

Players at the Chess II level participated in the "It's Better To Give Than To Receive" tournament. Since the holidays are a time of giving to others, chess should be no exception, so students play to give away all their pieces and make themselves a winner! The people earning top prizes in this tournament are always a surprise because the winning strategy is so different from regular chess. First Place awards in Grade Four Chess II went to David McConnell and Mason Williams. Second Place was awarded to John-Tyler Spann, Matthew Michel, Daniel Drake, and Will Coker. Grade Five Chess II First Place awards were received by Bryan Enfinger and Jason Pickens. Second Place awards went to Nathan Campbell, Carlin Taylor, David King, Brennan Young, and Jarred Gilbert.

Vasha Rosenblum

Special Announcements

1. Attention Scholastic Chess Tournament Directors and Coordinators!! Scholastic Vice President, Vasha Rosenblum,the 1998-99 school year when school opens in August, 1998. This should help people plan ahead and prepare to attend as many events as possible. The publication will be patterned after the Indiana model and will include tournament announcements, maps to each event, forms for USCF information, and group registration forms. In order to have your tournament included in this publication, set your date and send your announcement with details to Vasha by June, 1998.

2. To facilitate the early planning of the yearly Scholastic calendar, bids for the three State Scholastic Championship tournaments (Grade Level, Individual and Team) will be taken at the Alabama Chess Federation Board meeting at the Queen of Hearts tournament in February rather than at the Labor Day weekend State Championship.

3. ADVANCE REGISTRATION ONLY! Plan ahead! Please note that ALL PLAYERS MUST REGISTER IN ADVANCE for the Alabama State Scholastic Individual Chess Tournament to be held April 18 at Berry Middle School in Hoover, Alabama. There will be no provision for registration on site. Forms and entry fees will be accepted at South Shades Crest School up to 4:00 PM April 17.

Vasha Rosenblum

1997 Alabama State Grade Champipnship Brilliancy Winners

by Bill Melvin

Many exciting games were submitted as brilliancy prize candidates for the 1997 Alabama State Grade Championship. Kyle Therrell accepted the difficult task of selecting the best three games of the event. I assisted a little. We saw many games showing great skill and creativity. The following three games show that the future of Alabama chess is bright indeed.

Outstanding Game - Brilliancy
1997 Alabama State Grade Championship
Grades 6-8 Section
Round 4, Board 11, Game/45
November 8, 1997

Jordan Jones (1230) Roy Martin (1187)

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nf6 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. d3 Nc6

Many of the games submitted as brilliancy candidates contained similar openings. It is hard to argue with such sound development principles.

5. g3 d6 6. Bg2 O-O 7. O-O Bg4 8. a3 Bc3 9. bc3 Qd7

Play has been straightforward thus far. Both sides have completed their development. White has the bishop pair but a slightly worse pawn structure. I would rate the position as even.

10. h3? ...

White decides to sacrifice a pawn for an attack down the h-file. Unfortunately, Black has done nothing to justify such a sacrifice. Proving this could prove difficult, though.

10. ... Bh3 11. Bg5 Bg2

I would have been tempted to just leave the bishop on h3. This is awkward for White as it is difficult to make use of the h-file as long as the bishop is still on h3.

12. Kg2 Qd8

This move voluntarily steps into a pin. I prefer 12. ... Ne8 or 12. ... Qe6 here.

13. Bf6 ...

White is quick to dissolve the tension. Building the attack by 13. Rh1 is preferred.

13. ... Qf6 14. Rh1 Ne7 15. Qd2 Qg6 16. Rh3 f5

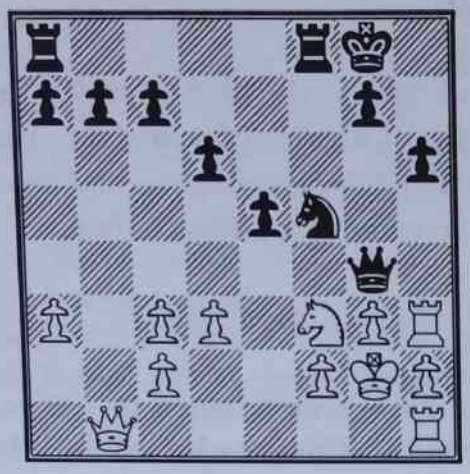
The point! Black intends to ignore White's pressure down the h-file and pursue his own play down the f-file.

17. ef Nf5 18. Rah1 h6

This totally shuts down White's attack. White must now regroup and play defense.

19. Qc1 Qg4 20. Qb1? ...

(see diagram next page)



*Position after **20. Qb1?***

White had to try 20.Qd1. Missing Black's next move costs the game.

20. ... Ne3+!

Taking the knight is mate in two.

21. Kg1 Qf3 22. R1h2 Qd1+

I prefer 22. ... Ng4 here. Still it is hard to argue with the effectiveness of Black's finish.

23. Qd1 Nd1 24. c4 Rf7 25. Rg2 Raf8 26. Rhh2 Ne3!

If White plays 27. fe3?? then Black gives immediate mate with 27. ... Rf1.

27. Rh3 Ng2 28. Kg2 Rf2+ 29. Kg1 Rf1+ 30. Kg2 R8f2 mate

0 - 1

Brilliancy Game
1997 Alabama State Grade Championship
Grades 6-8 Section
Round 2, Board 11, Game/45
November 8, 1997

Jordan Jones (1230) Al Tanju (1057)

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Nf6

My advice to most scholastic players would be 3. ... Bc5. Playing 3. ... Nf6 and the Two Knight's Defense invites difficult complications.

4. Ng5 d5

Playing 4. ... Bc5 always leads to a lively game!

5. ed Nd5?

This move invites the "Fried Liver Attack" which is very popular in scholastic chess. Unfortunately, it is not known for its soundness. Black had to try 5. ... b5, 5. ... Nd4, or 5. ... Na5 here. 5. ... Na5 is the main line where play might proceed: 6. Bb5+ c6, 7. dc bc, 8. Be2 h6, 9. Nf3 e4, 10. Ne5 with an even position.

6. Nf7? ...

This move initiates the Fried Liver Attack. In accepted analysis by former World Champion Max Euwe, better is 6. d4! ed, 7. O-O, Be6, 8. Re1 when White is winning.

6. ... Kf7 7. Qf3+ Ke6 8. Nc3 Nb4! 9. O-O ...

More usual is 9. a3, Nc2+, 10. Kd1 Nd4 with complications or 9. Qe4 c6, 10. a3 Na6, 11. d4 Nc7 which is also unclear.

9. ... c6 10. a3 Nc2 11. Rb1 Be7 12. Qe4 Bf6?

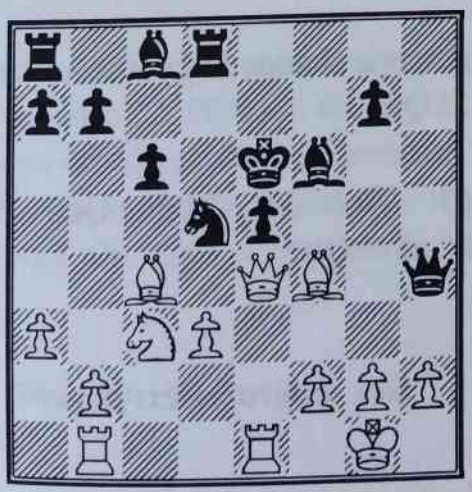
It is hard to evaluate this position. Black just tosses the piece to gain time. Still, White keeps the attack with even material. The best try here appears to be 12. ... Nd4, 13. Re1 Nf5, 14. Qe5 Kf7 where White is soon to have two pawns and an attack for the sacrificed piece.

13. Qc2 Rf8?

This move weakens h7 and doesn't help get the king to safety.

14. Re1 Qb6 15. Qh7 Qc5 16. d3 Qd4 17. Be3 Qh4 18. Qe4 Rd8 19. Bf4

This entire sequence of moves has been well played by both sides. White has an advantage greater than the pawn surplus. *(Both players areaware that 19. ... Qf4 would lose the queen to 20.Qf4 on account of the double pin - R.P.)*



19. ... Qh5 20. d4 Qf5 21. de ...

Keeping the tension with 21.Qe3 looks tempting here.

21. ... Qe4 22. Re4 Be7 23. Rd4 Kf5 24. Nd5 cd 25. Bd3+! ...

White is alert and notices that the routine 25. Bd5 runs into 25. ... Rd5, 26. Rd5 Kf4 where it can be tricky to prove that a rook and three pawns is better than two bishops.

25. ... Ke6 26. Rc1 Bd7 27. h3 g5 28. Bd2 Rg8

Black has an interesting try in 28. ... Ke5. However, a good reply is hard to find after the simple 29. Bc3. Best may be 29. ... Ke6, 30. Re1+ Kf7, 31. Rd5 where White's position has improved. Or, Black can try 29. ... Bc5, 30. Rc4+ Kd6, 31. Rc5!! Kc5, 32. Be5+ Kb6, 33. Bc7 mate.

29. Rc7 Bc6 30. Bb4 Rae8 31. Be7 Re7 32. Re7+ Ke7

When you are ahead in pawns, trade pieces! White shows masterful skills by trading down with a two pawn surplus.

33. f4 g4 34. Bf5 g3 35. Rd3 d4 36. Rd4 Rd8 37. Rd8 Kd8 38. Kf1 Kc7 39. Ke2 Bg2 40. h4 Bh1?

Black is lost anyway. Still, there can be no chances in moves like this.

41. h5 g2 42. Kf2 b5 43. h6 a5 44. h7 Kc6 45. h8(Q) b4 46. ab ab 47. Bh3

(continued next page)

g1(Q)+ 48. Kg1 Be4 49. Bg2 Kd5 50. Be4+ Ke4 51. e6 Kd3 52. e7 Kc4 53. e8(Q) Kb3 54. Qe6+ Kc2 55. Qe3 b3 56. Qhc3+ Kb1 57. Qec1+ Ka2 58. Qa5 mate

1 - 0

Brilliancy Game
1997 Alabama State Grade Championship
Grade 5 Section
Round 1, Board 39, Game/45
November 8, 1997

Christina Anderson	**Hunter Stevens**
(654)	**(698)**

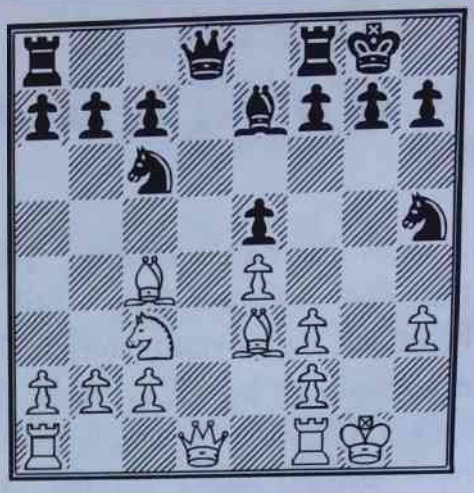
1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 Nf6 4. Nc3 Bc5 5. O-O O-O 6. d3 d5

These two players are the lowest rated of the Brilliancy winners. Notice how well they have developed their pieces. Black's last move was ambitious, though, as White can try 7. ed Nd5, 8. Bc6 bc, 9. Ne5 winning a pawn.

7. Bg5 de 8. de Bg4 9. h3 Bf3 10. gf ...

Most players would play to preserve the pawn structure with 10. Qf3. However, it is not clear that this is best. White would have to answer 10. ... Nd4 and some complications. The text move strengthens the center. The biggest drawback is the weakening of the f4 square which can never be guarded by a pawn.

10. ... Be7 11. Bc4 Nh5! 12. Be3! ...



*Position after **12.Be3!***

Both sides are playing masterfully. Black heads straight for the weak f4 square. White realizes that it would be a serious mistake to exchange on e7 as the bishop is needed to protect f4.

12. ... Qd6 13. Qe1 Qg6+ 14. Kh1 Na5??

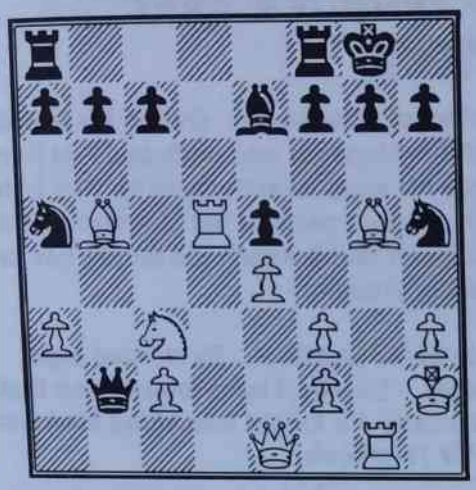
This move is just a little too careless. White can obtain a large advantage by an immediate 15. Nd5.

15. Rg1 Qf6 16. Bg5? Qd6?

Black misses a chance to get the advantage after 16. ... Qf3.

17. Rd1 Qc6 18. Bb5 Qc5 19. Rd5 Qb4 20. a3 Qb2

(see diagram next page)



*Position after **20 ... Qb2***

White has successfully decoyed the Black queen away from the action while activating her entire army. Notice how much more active White's pieces are than their Black counterparts.

21. Re5 Ba3

Probably a move like 21. ... Bd6 makes more sense here. Black needs to buy time to get troops back on defense.

22. Be7 ...

The position is still very complicated. Obvious moves like 22. Bh6 get met by 22. ... Bb4 and pieces are dropping everywhere! I'm not sure what is happening after 23. Rg7+ Kh8 (23. ... Ng7, 24. Qg1 with mate to follow on g7).

22. ... Be7 23. Re7 c6

Many of the games submitted for the brilliancy prize involved only one player playing well. At least two people submitted four move mates as brilliancies! While it can be argued that the winner of a four move mate played a flawless game, it seems more customary to award brilliancy prizes to those players whose opponents fought valiantly. Black has made the most of his chances the entire game and can claim to be a pawn to the good. Black's efforts coupled with Christina's fine play made this game worthy of a brilliancy prize.

24. Bd3 Nf4

At long last the knight arrives on its best square. White should now continue 25. Rg4 to remove the knight from its excellent post.

25. Qf1? Nh3??

After a long fight, black finally cracks. Simply 25. ... Qc3 leaves Black with an extra piece.

26. Qh3 Qc3 27. Qg2 Qb4??

The Black queen is perfectly posted to guard g7. Black should try 27. ... g6 or 27. ... Rae8 here.

28. Qg7 mate

1 - 0

The Wisdom of the Knight's Tour

by Dale Robbins

A gallant knight has passed thru the kingdom of 64 squares. During his travels, he was well pleased with the populace whose love of this kingdom was unrivaled. In honor of the people, the generous knight decided to share his wisdom with those worthy of his words. He has placed one letter of his message in different parts of the kingdom. To be worthy of his words, you must go on a quest. You must find the path the knight has taken. Only then will the quest be fulfilled and you find enlightenment.

On the board below is a collection of letters of the alphabet. By making legal knight moves, try to find the secret of the wise knight. Luckily, I have information that the knight entered our kingdom at e1. A fair maiden tricked our knight into lifting his visor. We know now that these wise words are those of Sir Tartakower.

R	I		T		O		
E	S	I	N				P
F	C	C		N			
P	Y	E		I		P	
A		I	T	O		S	
O	R	S	S	E	T	W	S
O	E	T	R	E	Y		A
E	U	T	C	I	L	B	A

Answer read backwords: SECEIPSTNENOPPORUOYECIFIRCASOTRETTEBSYAWLASITI

Alabama State Scholastic Individual Chess Championship

18 April 1998

LOCATION: Berry Middle School, 2826 Columbiana Road, Hoover, AL 35244

DIRECTIONS: Exit 252 on I-85. [From the south: Exit I-65 and stay in middle lane. Go straight through traffic light onto Columbiana Road. From the north: Exit I-65 and stay in left lane. Turn left at traffic light, go under expressway, moving into left turn lane at traffic light. Turn left onto Columbiana Road.] A Chevron station will be on the right, Saturn of Birmingham on the left. Continue for 0.8 miles through 3 traffic lights. Turn left at the 4th light to enter parking lot.

DETAILS: 5 Round Swiss. USCF Rated. Four sections by grade: Open (K-12), Jr. High (K-9), Elementary (K-6), Primary (K-3). Players are strongly encouraged to play in the lowest section for which they are eligible, but may "play up". Sections may be merged, depending on entries. Alabama residents only.

TIME CONTROL: Game in 30 minutes. **ROUNDS:** 9:00, 10:30, 12:30, 2:00, 3:30.

ENTRY FEE: $12.00 if RECEIVED by 4:00 PM, April 15; $20.00 thereafter. Make all checks payable to South Shades Crest (SSC).

REGISTRATION: **Advance registration only.** No registration after 4:00 PM, April 17. **NO ON-SITE REGISTRATION.** Check in on site 8:00 - 8:45. Players' meeting at 8:45 AM.

Send entry form and fees to:
Vasha Rosenblum

MEMBERSHIP: All participants must be USCF ($12) and ACF ($5) members.

TROPHIES: Open: High School Champion (must be in grade 9 - 12). Trophies for 1st-5th place (K-12) (1st place is "Alabama State Scholastic Champion"). Jr. High: Junior High Champion (must be in grade 6 - 9); trophies for 1st-5th place (K-9). Elementary: Elementary Champion (must be in grade 4 - 6); trophies for 1st-10th place (K-6). Primary: Primary Champion (K - 3); trophies for 2nd-10th place (K-3).

CONCESSIONS: Breakfast, lunch, and snacks. Chess books and equipment.

QUESTIONS: Vasha Rosenblum

Please fill in COMPLETELY

Name _____ USCF ID _____ Exp. Date _____

Address _____ Section _____ Rating _____

_____ Date of Birth _____

First Sunday Quads

When: The First Sunday of **(almost)** every month (please check the ACF Calendar)

Where: Hill University Center on the UAB campus (corner of University Ave and 14th Street South)

What: Low-cost USCF rated Quads, G/45. **Entry fee: $2.00.** Some sections may be Hex, or G/30

Times: **Registration,** 1:00-1:30; **Rounds,** 1:45, 3:15, 4:45

Prizes: Clear winner in each section receives free entry to the next event.

All ages and all playing levels welcome. USCF Membership Required (available on site). This is a popular low-stress format. Come and enjoy the chess! No big $$, no big trophies - just chess. Please bring sets, boards and clocks. Round times are nominal - we'll play each round ASAP (RR format means no delay for pairings). Questions? - contact Kenneth Sloan

Space City Scholastic

Dublin Park Recreation Center

Madison, Alabama

Date: 14 March 1998
Details: 4 Round Swiss. USCF Rated. No computers; wheelchair accessable.
Time control: Game in 30 minutes
Registration: For early registration, send entry form and fees to Huntsville Chess Club
At site registration: 8:00 - 9:15 on day of tournament
Rounds: K - 3, K - 6 and K - 12 sections: 10:00, 11:30, 1:00, 2:30
Membership: All participants must be USCF and ACF members (other states OK)
Entry fee: $10 if received by March 10; $15 at site.
Make checks payable to the Huntsville Chess Club; include USCF ID# and desired section.
Prizes: Each Section: 1st, Chess Clock; 2nd, Chess Set; 3rd - 5th, Chess Books.

Advance Registration Form

Name _____ Section _____

USCF ID _____ Telephone _____

Huntsville Chess Club

Space City Open

Huntsville Chess Club

Dublin Park Recreation Center
Madison, Alabama

DATE: 14-15 March 1998
DETAILS: 5 Round Swiss. USCF Rated.
Heart of Dixie Event Tournament
Novag Grand Prix Tournament - 6 Grand Prix Points
NC, NS, W
TIME CONTROL: 40 moves in 90 minutes, SD in 30 minutes
REGISTRATION: For early registration, send entry form and fees to:
Huntsville Chess Club

8:00 - 9:00 AM on 1st day of tournament
ROUNDS: Open and Amateur Sections: 9:30, 2:00, 6:30 Saturday;
9:30, 2:00 Sunday
MEMBERSHIP: All participants must be USCF and ACF members
(other states OK)
Memberships available on site.
ENTRY FEE: Open: $30 if received by March 10. $40 at site.
Amateur U1600: $30 if received by March 10. $40 at site.
Make checks payable to the Huntsville Chess Club
Include USCF ID# and desired section
PRIZES: $300 Guaranteed, other prizes based on 45 entries
Open: 1st $300G, 2nd $150, Expert $150 - $100,
A-Class $100 - $50, U1800 $100 - $50
Amateur: 1st $125, 2nd $75, Class D $75,
U1200 $50, Unrated $50
(unrated eligible for unrated prize only)
Accomodation: I565 at Wall Triana Hwy exit on Hwy 20
Days Inn - Space Center West 205 772-9550
Federal Square 800 458-1639
Motel 6 205 772-7479
Ramada 800 272-6232
Directions: From I565 Wall Triana Hwy exit turn right on Hwy 20
1 mile then left on Hughes at second light
Go north on Hughes 1.8 miles to second light (Exxon)
Right on Madison Pike .5 miles
Left into Dublin Park Recreation Center on hill.
From US 72 turn south on Hughes at light (BP Station)
3.2 miles to second light
Left on Madison Pike (Exxon) .5 miles
Left into Dublin Park Recreation Center on hill.
From Huntsville via Madison Pike 3.7 miles from Rideout
Road overpass right into Dublin Park Recreation Center.
INFORMATION: Gerald Wheeler

Cut Here

Advance Registration Form

Name: _____ Section: _____
USCF ID: _____ Telephone: _____

1998 Alabama State Scholastic Team Chess Championship

WHEN:	Saturday, May 9, 1998
LOCATION:	Advent Episcopal Day School – Birmingham, Alabama. Main entrance at 6th Ave and 21st Street N. Parking on street and in lot at 5th Ave and 21st Street N.
PREREQUISITE:	U.S. Chess Federation membership (14 yrs & under $12/yr, Youth $17/yr) Alabama Chess Federation membership ($5/yr) Team members MUST attend the same school(Alabama schools only) Team roster must be in USCF rating order
FORMAT:	4 player teams(no alternates), 5 round Swiss, USCF rated
SECTIONS:	High School (K-12), Junior High (K-9), Elementary (K-6), Primary (K-3)
TIME CONTROL:	Game in 30 minutes (per opponent)
ROUNDS:	9:30, 11:00, 12:30, 2:00, 3:30
ENTRY FEE:	$44 / team if received by May 2, 1998, $56 / team on site
REGISTRATION:	On site check-in and registration, 8:00 – 9:00 A.M. Make checks payable to Advent Chess Team. Send entry form, entry fee plus USCF and ACF fees if due to: Dale W. Robbins,
PRIZES:	State Champion Team, Board One, Board Two, Board Three, Board Four 1st Place High School Team, Board One, Board Two, Board Three, Board Four 2nd Place High School Team, Board One, Board Two, Board Three, Board Four 1st Place Jr. High Team, Board One, Board Two, Board Three, Board Four 2nd Place Jr. High Team, Board One, Board Two, Board Three, Board Four 1st Place Elementary Team, Board One, Board Two, Board Three, Board Four 2nd Place Elementary Team, Board One, Board Two, Board Three, Board Four 1st Place Primary Team, Board One, Board Two, Board Three, Board Four 2nd Place Primary Team, Board One, Board Two, Board Three, Board Four
CONCESSIONS:	Breakfast, lunch, and snacks

Team Name _____ Section _____ Avg USCF Rating _____

School _____ Coach _____ Phone _____

Bd 1. Name _____ USCF ID _____ Exp Date _____ Rating _____

Address _____ Birthdate _____ Grade _____

Bd 2. Name _____ USCF ID _____ Exp Date _____ Rating _____

Address _____ Birthdate _____ Grade _____

Bd 3. Name _____ USCF ID _____ Exp Date _____ Rating _____

Address _____ Birthdate _____ Grade _____

Bd 4. Name _____ USCF ID _____ Exp Date _____ Rating _____

Address _____ Birthdate _____ Grade _____

26th Annual Queen of Hearts Chess Tournament*

February 14 - 15, 1998
10th Floor, AUM **Library Tower**, Montgomery AL

Prizes (based on 40 regular entries for both sections combined)

Open Section (open to all)		**Reserve Section** (under 1600)	
1st	$250		
2nd	$100	1st	$125
Expert	$100	2nd	$75
Top A	$100	Top D	$75
2nd A	$50	Top E	$75
Top < 1800	$100	Unrated	$50
2nd < 1800	$50		

Entry fees

Regular entries: **$35** if mailed by Feb. 5 to TD Rich Bellezza (make check payable to Montgomery Chess Club - write USCF number on check and state desired section); **$40** at site.
Scholastic entries: (for those Scholastics who elect to play for trophy prizes only) **$10** if mailed to above address by Feb 5; **$15** at site.
Affiliations: USCF is required of all participants, and ACF membership is required for Alabama residents. To earn Heart of Dixie points, one must be an ACF member.

Time control, etc.

Time control (both sections) **:** Forty moves in 90 minutes; then sudden death in 30 minutes.
Round times: Saturday, 9:30, 2:30, 7:30; Sunday, 9:30, 2:30
On-site registration: 8:15 to 9:00 A.M. Saturday.
Inquiries: Rhodes Peele,

**A Heart of Dixie Tour Event!!*

CHESS FOUNDATION OF ALABAMA

January 14, 1998

Dear Chessplayers:

1996 and 1997 were banner years for our Chess Foundation of Alabama. We began to receive contributions toward endowing the Foundation's future goals and programs.

We began 1996 with less than $200, and during the early part of that year we made several contacts regarding fundraising methods. The advice we received was to concentrate first on our own constituents, then broadening to the corporate community. As you know, we began placing in the Antics a standard letter soliciting your participation toward the Foundation goals, Our primary goal was to raise an initial $1000 with which to purchase certificates of deposit. We are pleased to announce that we will soon purchase a $500 CD, and are within roughly $200 of a second $500 CD.

Would you not like to join the following persons in ensuring the Foundation's continued growth and success?

James R. Brooks
O. Lamar Daniel
Dr. and Mrs. Albert A. Gaston, Jr.
Ranil D. Guneratne
Eric G. Reid
Robert M. Rieves
Wayne L. Sherman
Sam Whatley
Crisler, Kevin
Richard Ellis
Jack Mallory
Kim E. Rosenfield, Esq.
Jack Gwin
George Jim Tudor
Dr. George B. Whatley

Our sincere thanks to them for their active interest in and support of the future of chess in Alabama.

Sincerely,

Richard Ellis for
the Board of Directors

CHESS FOUNDATION OF ALABAMA

Mr./Ms. Chessplayer
Anytown, Alabama

Dear Chessplayer:

The Chess Foundation of Alabama gratefully acknowledges your contribution of $_____. In making a contribution, you have become a part of the Foundation's effort to develop unique opportunities for the advancement of chess and chess endeavors in Alabama.

You have joined in active support of the Chess of Alabama, and I personally appreciate your interest.

Again, we appreciate your interest and support. As we are required by law to do, this will acknowledge that in connection with your contribution, you received no goods or services.

Sincerely,

Richard W. Ellis
President

ALL PERSONS CONTRIBUTING TO THE FOUNDATION RECEIVE THE ABOVE LETTER TO EVIDENCE HIS OR HER TAX DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION.

MAKE THIS ONE OF YOUR GOALS FOR '98!

Various Letters, E-mails, etc.

January 16, 1998

Dear Mr. Peele,

I found your e-mail address at the Alabama state chess federation site. I was hoping you might be able to help me. My name is John Hilbert. Dale Brandreth and I are writing a biography and games collection about Norman Tweed Whitaker (1890-1975).Mr. Whitaker, in fact, died in Phoenix City,Alabama. He lived for many years in Maryland, but especially during the period 1950 through 1974 he was active in regional chess, both as a tournament director and as a player.

I was hoping you might place a small "Request for Information" in Alabama Chess Antics on our behalf, requesting game scores, annecdotes, and any stories from those who actually faced Whitaker over the board or who otherwise knew him personally. Information could be sent to: John S. Hilbert,

Both my addresses are, of course, available for publication concerning this matter.

Dale Brandreth and I have hundreds of Whitaker's papers, including several hundred of his game scores, but we are trying to do a full review of his life, both the good and the bad. Any information about him from your members would be greatly appreciated. Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely yours,
John S. Hilbert

January 2, 1998

Dear Editor,

Just received my latest issue of the Alabama Chess Antics. Good job! With all the excellent articles (Melvin, Whatley, Ananiadis, Edwards, etc.)it really is an outstanding issue. But I do have one bone to pick. Where is the complete list of all the Prize Winners? Some tell me this information is available on the Internet. But what about those folks who do not have access to the Internet?

There is still time to make amends. Publish a complete prize list. Every player who won or tied for a prize should be listed. It also might help satisfy my own curiosity. Who got to take home all those absolutely gorgeous plaques? Also, maybe I'd better take note. After all, I was a Class "D" player once.

A.J. Goldsby I (Life-Master)

Dear A.J.,

Thanks for your letter. Shortly after the State Tournament ended, Mrs. Camille Gaston, chief organizer and chess promoter par excellence, had an illness that required hospitalization, and this somewhat slowed the usual flow of information. Since then her son Shafer sent me an E-mail that lists the winners of the plaques that you mentioned. I append this list below along with your name since you were the overall tournament winner.

Overall winner: A.J. Goldsby
Alabama's State Chess Champ's
State Co-champions: Bill Melvin, Huntsville; Andrew Whatley, Pike Road
Expert Class: Mark Schulingkamp; Brent Inman, Mobile; Joe Jurjevich, Bay Minette; Richard Price, Mobile; Ulric Aeria; Andy Reeder, Tuscaloosa; Jere Roland, Dothan
Class A: Nuwan Suriyagoda; John Morcos; Ranil Guneratne; Caesar Lawrence, Montgomery
Class B: Valerie Hodgson, Fairhope
1997 Reserve Champion: James Richardson, Montgomery
2nd Place, Reserve: Steve Nowlin, Dothan
Class C: John Caldwell; Thomas Elmes, Mobile
Class D: Shafer Gaston, Mobile; William Berry, Mobile
Class E: Don Yessick
Under 1000: Kevin DeAndrade, Mobile
Unrated: Alfonso Torres

November 22, 1997

Chess Players:

The Florence newspaper "Times Daily" reported Friday, November 21, 1997 that Milan Momic age 62 of Muscle Shoals died Tuesday, November 18, 1997 in Sheffield. There will be no funeral services. The body will be cremated. Spry Funeral Home, Sheffield is directing.

In lieu of flowers, cards may be sent to the family in care of:

Katharina Momic

A nice picture of Momic along with the Obit. was included. It mentions he was the first Alabama Chess Master as well as the first liver transplant recipient in Alabama.

Sorry to bring this bad news...
Bobby N. Edwards

ACF Calendar *maintained by Dr. Ken Sloan*

This table of chess events is mostly taken from the webpage
Look it over and ***mark your calendar*** *with all events that you* ***might*** *want to play in! Organizers, please call or E-mail Dr. Sloan so that your tournament(s) can be listed. On very rare occasions, tournaments have to be cancelled or rescheduled after they have been announced in the Antics. For this reason, it is sometimes a good idea to communicate with theorganizer or contact person before driving to an out-of-town event*

Event	Date and City More information on	Contact Person, phone and/or E-mail address
26th Annual Queen of Hearts (A "Heart of Dixie" Event)	February 14 - 15; Montgomery page 31	Rhodes Peele;
First Sunday Quads	March 1; Birmingham page 28	Kenneth Sloan;
Space City Scholastic	March 14; Madison page 28	Gerald Wheeler;
Space City Open (A "Heart of Dixie" Tour Event)	March 14 - 15; Madison page 29	Gerald Wheeler;
First Sunday Quads	April 5; Birmingham page 28	Kenneth Sloan;
Deadline for submitting material for next Antics	April 10	Rhodes Peele;
Alabama Scholastic Individual	April 18; Birmingham page 27	Vasha Rosenblum;
First Sunday Quads	May 3; Birmingham page 28	Kenneth Sloan;
State Scholastic Team	May 9; Birmingham page 30	Dale Robbins;
First Sunday Quads	June 7 Birmingham page 28	Kenneth Sloan;
First Sunday Quads	August 2; Birmingham page 28	Kenneth Sloan;

The **Alabama Chess Federation** (ACF) is the United States Chess Federation (USCF) affiliate for the state of Alabama. Membership is open to any interested individual or organization by paying the annual membership dues. Please support Alabama chess by **joining** or **renewing** your annual membership in ACF. Benefits of membership include a subscription to the quarterly publication *Alabama Chess Antics.*

ACF Membership Application

☐ Regular, $10 ☐ Scholastic (under 19), $5 ☐ Affiliate, $15

Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
USCF ID# (if applicable) _____
Phone and/or E-mail address _____

Mail this coupon or a photocopy along with payment to
Jack Mallory/ ACF Secretary-Treasurer/

Alabama Chess Antics

c/o Jeff Lake
Publisher, Alabama Chess Antics

Inside This Issue

- *Sixteen pages of annotated games*
- *Greatly expanded Sclolastic Section*
- *Extensive coverage of 1997 Alabama State Grade Championship*
- *Tournament display ads, including several Scholastic tournaments*
- *Much more; and 36 pages!*